FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes raided selected targets in Tehran, Kermanshah, and Hamadan late on 25 March, an Iraqi military spokesman announced on Voice of the Masses radio. The spokesman added that this is new proof that the "whispers of Zionism" and aid from its Arab allies will not help Iran. Seven people were killed and 30 others were wounded in the Iraqi raid on Tehran residential areas late on 25 march, IRNA reported. Meanwhile, Iraqi planes raided two "large maritime targets" near Khark Island late on 25 March, according to an Iraqi spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses radio. Earlier, IRNA reported that three Iraqi planes were shot down during an attempted attack on Khark Island oil terminal midday on 25 March. An Iraqi military spokesman, in a statement to INA, denied the Iranian claim and asserted that all planes returned safely to base after carrying out their missions.

On the diplomatic front, the Arab League Council issued a resolution during its 25 March Tunis meeting renewing its "total solidarity" with Iraq and stressing the need to "mobilize all efforts" to end the Gulf war, SPA reported.

Palestinian Affairs

The formation of a Palestinian National Salvation Front opposed to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's "deviationist command" was announced at a press conference in the Syrian capital reported by Damascus radio. The front is a "temporary framework" to enable the PLO to regain its "national line," a spokesman said, and will struggle to topple the agreement between 'Arafat and King Husayn, considering all those who accept the Amman agreement as "deviators." Those attending the press conference included "PNC Speaker" Khalid al-Fahum and the leaders of the PFLP, the PFLP-General Command, the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, Al-Sa'iqah, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the "Provisional Command" of Fatah — the term for Colonel Sa'id Musa's Fatah dissident group.

The DFLP and the Palestinian Communist Party were not included in the new front and sources cited by *THE JORDAN TIMES* said they have not joined because they fear it will attempt to replace the PLO. For the PLO's part, PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil al-Wazir told the paper that the new organization's formation is part of Syria's plan to divide, contain, and control the PLO, and a Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary likewise castigated the front and its Syrian and Libyan backers. Meanwhile, Libya's Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud met with the leaders of the front in Damascus and invited them to visit Libya, Tripoli radio noted. In another development, Libya has refused to allow a PLO delegation to attend the Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference in Benghazi, causing Algeria and the PDRY to boycott the conference, according to a Palestinian source cited by KUNA.

Lebanon

Kidnappings A British journalist employed by UNRWA was kidnapped south of Beirut, while a French consular official was abducted in the northern city of Tripoli, an action claimed by the "Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Factions," according to AFP.

Christians The Lebanese Forces Executive Committee, in a statement reported by Voice of Lebanon radio, ordered all its fighters to respect the law and the legitimate authorities, adding that it intends to gradually hand over responsibility for internal security and judicial activity to the state authorities.

Kuwait

On his arrival in Kuwait, SFRY Defense Secretary Admiral Branko Mamula told KUNA that his talks with Kuwaiti Defense Ministry officials will center around military cooperation and the Middle East situation.

Pakistan

President Ziaul Haq dissolved the cabinet effective 24 March, Karachi radio reported. Following consultations with the new prime minister, Mohammad Khan Junejo, Zia requested that three ministers, including the foreign minister, remain in their posts until a new cabinet is formed, the radio noted. In a separate development, Junejo told newsmen that he favors a revival of political parties, according to the Karachi paper *DAWN*. When asked about imprisoned opposition party leaders Junejo said that the issue comes under "provincial jurisdiction."

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 058 *26 March 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Palestinian National Salvation Front Program *[Damascus]* ..... A 1
Libya's Jallud Meets With Front Leadership *[Tripoli]* ..... A 2
PLO Reacts to Formation of New Palestinian Front ..... A 3
Front Labeled 'Syrian Scheme' *[JORDAN TIMES 26 Mar]* ..... A 3
Broad Front Formation Ridiculed *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 4
PLO Official on U.S. Role in Falasha Airlift *[Algiers VOP]* ..... A 4
Resistance Operations in South Lebanon Detailed *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 4
West Bank Resistance Operations *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* ..... A 5
83d Arab League Ministerial Council Session ..... A 5
Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives *[SUNA]* ..... A 5
Transport of Falashas Denied *[SUNA]* ..... A 5
Lebanon, Gulf War Discussed *[SPA]* ..... A 5
'Disappointment' With U.S. Voiced *[KUNA]* ..... A 5

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GULF AFFAIRS

AFP: Panamanian Freighter Hit in Gulf ..... C 1

BAHRAIN

Amir Returns From Private Visit Abroad ..... C 1
Saudi Planning Minister Arrives for Talks 23 Mar ..... C 1
Concludes Visit, Departs ..... C 1

KUWAIT

Yugoslav Defense Minister Arrives for Talks ..... C 1
Official Talks With France Begin 23 Mar ..... C 2
GCC-ECC Ties Discussed ..... C 2
Gutman Evaluates Talks ..... C 2
PRC Petroleum Minister Received by Amir 25 Mar ..... C 3
Received by Prime Minister ..... C 3
Joint Talks End ..... C 3
AL-WATAN Interviews Defense Minister on Gulf Issues *[23 Mar]* ..... C 3
New Social Affairs Minister, Counsellor Named ..... C 6

SAUDI ARABIA

French Minister Confers With Defense Official ..... C 6
Planning Minister Comments on Development Plan *[WAKH]* ..... C 6

UAE

British Naval Ships Begin UAE Visits 23 Mar ..... C 7
Destroyer Enters Al-Shariqah Port *[QNA]* ..... C 7
Frigate Arrives at Zeyed *[WAKH]* ..... C 7

PDRY

Ethiopian Industry Minister Arrives 23 Mar ..... C 7
Economic Committee Session With Algeria Ends ..... C 7
Defense Minister Departs for Libya 25 Mar ..... C 8

EGYPT

Mubarak Reviews Results of U.S. Visit ..... D 1
Ghali on Peace Treaty With Israel ..... D 1
Manpower Minister Departs for Amman ..... D 2
Information Minister Leaves for Addis Ababa ..... D 2
AL-AHRAM on al-Qadhdhafi, Ties With Iraq *[22 Mar]* ..... D 2

IRAQ

Saddam Chairs Lengthy General Command Meeting ..... E 1
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran ..... E 1
Communique No 1,784 ..... E 1
Downing of Planes Denied ..... E 1
2 Maritime Targets Hit ..... E 1
Tehran, Kermanshah, Hamadan Raided ..... E 2
Iranian Forces Listed ..... E 2
'Destructive' Strikes, 'Crushing War' Threatened ..... E 3
Industry Minister Talks With Poland's Gorywoda ..... E 3
Irrigation Minister Confers With Polish Official ..... E 3

JORDAN

King Husayn Discusses PLO Accord, Spanish Ties ..... F 1
King Husayn Visits Spain, Meets Juan Carlos *[cross-reference]* ..... F 2
Egyptian Minister Arrives To Discuss Sea Route ..... F 2
Tahir Hikmat Receives USSR Writers Delegation ..... F 2
Briefs: Ambassador to Cuba ..... F 2

LEBANON

Kidnappings of Foreign Officials Detailed ..... G 1
French, Italian Citizens Threatened ..... G 1
British Journalist Abducted ..... G 1
Birri Denounces Kidnappings ..... G 1
Sha'ban Seeks Kidnappers *[Voice of Arab Lebanon]* ..... G 1
PSP Opposes Kidnappings *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... G 1
Birri Objects to Relocating French Embassy *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ..... G 2
Israel Reportedly Asks for Return to Al-Naqurah Talks *[KUNA]* ..... G 2
Syria Urges 'Swift' End to Christian Split ..... G 2
AL-SAFIR Reports Formation of New Movement *[25 Mar]* ..... G 2
Military Council Makes Changes, Appointments ..... G 2
ANSA Interviews Christian Forces Leader ..... G 3
Lebanese Forces Committee Adopts Security Plan *[Voice of Lebanon]* ..... G 3
Phalangist Official Reaffirms Uprising's Goals *[Voice of Lebanon]* ..... G 4
Phalangist Political Bureau, Central Council Meet ..... G 4

SYRIA

President al-Asad Issues Amnesty Law No 6 ..... H 1
Libya's Staff Major Jallud Visits Damascus ..... H 1
Received by Al-Asad *[JANA]* ..... H 1
Meets Khaddam, PLO Officials *[JANA]* ..... H 1
Meets Habash, Ghushah, Jibril *[Tripoli]* ..... H 1

Talas Receives PDRY Military Delegation ..... H 1
Polish Parliamentarians Arrive in Damascus ..... H 1
Talks With Speaker al-Zu'bi ..... H 1
USSR Foreign Trade Ministry Official Arrives ..... H 2
TISHRIN Views Palestinian National Salvation Front ..... H 2

ISRAEL

Rabin Says Syria Main Threat to Nation *[MA'ARIV 25 Mar]* ..... I 1
No Objection to Jordanian-Egyptian-U.S. Meeting *[MA'ARIV 25 Mar]* ..... I 1
Ministerial-Level Talks With Egypt Proposed ..... I 1
Promise Not To Bomb Iraqi Nuclear Reactors Denied ..... I 1
Begin Says PLO Must Not Participate in Negotiations ..... I 1
Rabin Foresees Confrontation Following Withdrawal ..... I 1
IDF Official Says Good Fence To Remain Open ..... I 2
Rabin Says Ties With Lebanese Druze May Continue ..... I 2
Herzog 'Sharply' Criticizes CBS Reaction *[THE JERUSALEM POST 25 Mar]* ..... I 2
Three Settlements Slated For Lebanese Border *[THE JERUSALEM POST 26 Mar]* ..... I 2
French Assembly Head Says UN Vote Not Anti-Israeli ..... I 3
Coalition Leaders Meet To Improve Relations ..... I 3
Committee To Meet To Amend Economic Package Deal ..... I 3
'Significant Deficit' Expected for 1985-86 Budget ..... I 3

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

OCAM Dissolved Following Meeting in Togo 23 Mar *[Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN 25 Mar]* ..... P 1
Air Afrique Summit Issues Communique *[Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN 25 Mar]* ..... P 1
Lusophone Nations Approve News Exchange Program *[PANA]* ..... P 1
Interparliamentary Union Conference Opens 25 Mar *[Lome]* ..... P 2

NORTH AFRICA

ALGERIA

Visits of Kuwaiti, Saudi Foreign Ministers Detailed ..... Q 1
Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives *[Kuwait Domestic]* ..... Q 1
Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives *[SPA]* ..... Q 1
Ministers Meet With Bendjedid *[SPA]* ..... Q 1

LIBYA

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR Analyzes Shultz Statement ..... Q 1

MOROCCO

Libya's Al-Turayki Arrives, Makes Statement ..... Q 2
King Hassan Receives PLO, Libyan Envoys ..... Q 2
PLO Envoy Departs ..... Q 2
Foreign Minister Confers With Spanish Counterpart *[cross-reference]* ..... Q 3

SUDAN

Numayri Addresses SSU Central Leadership ..... Q 3
Orders Court Verdicts Reviewed ..... Q 3
Views Role of Universities ..... Q 3
Supports Iraq in Gulf War ..... Q 3
Calls Muslim Brotherhood Terroristic ..... Q 3
Examines Libyan, Iranian Policies ..... Q 3
Supports Palestinians ..... Q 3
SSU Central Leadership Resumes Deliberations ..... Q 3

President Numayri Receives Message From King Fahd ..... Q 4
SPLA Radio: Garang Addresses Countrymen ..... Q 4

TUNISIA

President Bourguiba Receives King Fahd's Message *[SPA]* ..... Q 9
Essebsi Discusses Ties With Omani Counterpart ..... Q 9
President, Foreign Minister Discuss Mideast Issues ..... Q 9

WESTERN SAHARA

Algiers: Communique on Military Successes Issued ..... Q 10

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

Joint Cooperation Meeting With CSSR Begins ..... R 1
USSR Friendship Society Delegation Arrives ..... R 1
EPLF Leader on Arms, Military Buildup *[KUNA]* ..... R 1

KENYA

Foreign Minister Condemns Killings in RSA ..... R 2
Paper Views 'Constructive Engagement' With RSA *[KENYA TIMES 23 Mar]* ..... R 2

SEYCHELLES

Soviet Union Donates Marine Diesel Fuel ..... R 3

SOMALIA

President Meets Niger Minister, OAU Refugee Officials ..... R 3

UGANDA

Obote Reiterates Appeal for Sanctions Against RSA ..... R 3

CENTRAL AFRICA

CAMEROON

President Biya Addresses Party Congress ..... S 1
Closes Congress ..... S 6

CHAD

Ndjamena on New Paris-Based Opposition Movement ..... S 8
FDT Official, Government Envoy on New Front *[Paris]* ..... S 8

GABON

Congo Leader Visits, Comments on Summit, Chad *[PANA]* ..... S 9

WEST AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Returns; Air Afrique Practices Criticized ..... T 1

IVORY COAST

President Houphouet-Boigny Returns From Lome ..... T 1
Assembly Authorizes Legal Action Against Dioulo ..... T 1

LIBERIA

Proposed LAP Files Response to Objectors ..... T 2
Israeli Experts Visit, Discuss Investment ..... T 2

NIGERIA

Idiagbon Says Government To Increase Border Security ..... T 2
Priorities of National Plan ..... T 2
Minister Wants Bigger Portuguese Role in Development ..... T 2
Participation in Brazzaville Conference on Namibia Set ..... T 3
Lagos on UK Firm's Attempts To Destabilize Oil Price ..... T 3
DAILY SKETCH: U.S. Encourages RSA Intransigence ..... T 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

ANGOP Questions Veracity of UNITA Communiques ..... U 1
UNITA Claims Planting Hotel Bomb, Cutting Power ..... U 2

COMOROS

Government Denies Nation Transit Point for Arms ..... U 2
Moroni on Allegations ..... U 2

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha on Granting Blacks Political Rights ..... U 3
Botha Asked To Appoint Interim Namibian Government ..... U 3
RSA-Mozambique Joint Group Makes 'Good Progress' ..... U 4
Le Grange Visits Townships; Unrest Continues ..... U 4
Boesak Predicts More Unrest in Township ..... U 4
PFP Members Submit Report On Uitenhage Killings ..... U 4
Azapo Leader on Reprisal Killings in Townships ..... U 6
Black Leaders Must Break 'Negotiation Deadlock' ..... U 6
Division in Extra-Parliamentary Opposition Viewed *[SUNDAY TIMES 24 Mar]* ..... U 7

SWAZILAND

Foreign Minister Leaves for Visit to UK ..... U 9
SWAZI OBSERVER Criticizes Clergy Stand on Politics *[22 Mar]* ..... U 9

ZIMBABWE

Mangwende on Killings in RSA, Ties With Pakistan ..... U 10
Mangwende Urges USSR, U.S. To Open Arms Talks ..... U 10
Official Condemns Political, Tribal Divisions ..... U 10

Palestinian National Salvation Front Program
JN251615 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1145 GMT 25 Mar 85

[From "On the Events" program]

[Text] At a press conference in Damascus this afternoon, the formation of a Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] was announced. This Front comprises all the national factions, figures, and forces that are committed to the PLO and has as its objective the confrontation of the dangers engulfing the PLO and its national cause. Let us listen to part of this press conference, which was opened by PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum with these words:

[Begin recording] This press conference is attended by several brothers who are members of the Palestinian National Salvation Front command. Those attending are: Brother George Habash, PFLP secretary general; Ahmad Jibril, PFLP-GC secretary general; Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the provisional command of the Palestinian National Liberation Front, Fatah; Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front; Brother 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-Al-Sa'iqah Forces; Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the Palestinian Liberation Front; 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO Executive Committee member and official PLO spokesman; Ahmad al-Yamani, PLO Executive Committee member and member of the PFLP Political Bureau; Muhammad Khalifah, PLO Executive Committee secretary and assistant secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards-Al-Sa'iqah Forces; Khalid al-Fahum, PNC speaker; Brother Talal Naji, PLO Executive Committee member and assistant secretary general of the PFLP-GC; and other leaders of the Palestinian revolution factions. [end recording]

The PNSF political program and its basic organizational principles were then read. The preamble of the political program dealt with the Palestinian people's struggle and the sacrifices they have offered and highlighted the PLO's role as a framework that embodies the Palestinian people's unity and acts as an instrument for the attainment of the Palestinian people's national objectives, stressing that the PLO is the most prominent obstacle in the face of liquidatory and defeatist solutions. The preamble also dealt with the dangers engulfing the PLO and the difficulties it is experiencing as a result of the conspiracies that are meant to liquidate the Palestinian people's national cause.

The preamble reads: The dangers resulting from the conspiracies of enemy forces have escalated and they are increasing their attempts to remove the PLO from its national course that is hostile to liquidatory settlements. They are also working to divide the PLO and impose tutelage on it. This crisis has become more acute as a result of the deviationist command, under Yasir 'Arafat, pursuing its course on the political, military, organizational, and financial levels. The course and practices followed by this command reflect favorably on U.S. and liquidatory settlements, as can be witnessed by its claims that positive points do exist in Reagan's plan, in its contacts with the Egyptian regime, in its changing the pattern of its relationship and alliances on the Arab and international level, in its holding meetings with known Zionist symbols, in its attempt to cancel the role of the Palestinian revolution forces in Lebanon and dispersing them in several Arab countries far from the struggle arena with the Zionist enemy, and in its focus on diplomatic moves at the expense of armed struggle.

The preamble also dealt with 'Arafat's visit and his meeting with the Camp David regime, his bargaining with the Jordanian regime, the announcement of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian statement, the convocation of the illegal Amman PNC session, the involvement in the U.S. settlement schemes, and the deviation from PNC resolutions.

The preamble added that not content with convening the illegal Amman PNC session, the command of the deviationist course definitely removed itself from the circle of national action after it signed the February 1985 agreement, which came in response to the initiative King Husayn submitted at the illegal Amman PNC session and which is based on the recognition of UN Security Council Resolution 242.

The statement [as heard] also dealt with the possibility of foiling these schemes as a result of the struggle of our people in the occupied territories, the collapse of the 17 May agreement, and the effectiveness of the national resistance's role. The statement said that concern over our people's rights and the future of our cause dictates the formation of a National Salvation Front comprising all nationalist factions, figures, and forces that are committed to the PLO on the basis of abidance by the Palestinian National Charter, the basic statutes, the resolutions of the PNC during its legal sessions and on the basis of the rejection of the illegal Amman PNC session and the consideration of its political and organizational results as null and void.

The statement also said that the establishment of a National Salvation Front dictates assuming a series of basic political duties and defining an organizational formula that guarantees the attainment of these duties.

Let us now listen to the political tasks and the basic organizational principles as contained in the statement by Ahmad al-Yamani.

[Begin recording] The political tasks:

1. To adhere to the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, and its national political and organizational program in accordance with the national charter and the PNC resolutions during its legitimate sessions in order to protect its national line and accomplishments; to strengthen the Front's action within its framework; and to resist all alternative formulas that will harm our people's sole representation, whether through deputization, proxy, participation, or annexation.

2. To struggle in order to topple the Amman agreement, the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement, and the results of the agreement, because it is illegal and does not represent the Palestinian people's will and the PLO; and to consider all those who agree with it, accept it, or contribute to its implementation as deviators from the national trend.

3. To take action to topple the trend of deviation and relinquishment and their symbols and to restore the PLO'S national line and protect its accomplishments.

4. To step up armed struggle against the Zionist enemy inside the occupied homeland and from all fronts surrounding it; and to take action to reorganize the Palestinian revolution forces so they will implement their effective role and assume their national responsibilities.

5. To cooperate with all national groups, forces, and figures that are opposed to the trend of deviation, capitulation, and relinquishment inside the occupied homeland in order to reactivate and revive the Palestinian national front on the basis of the PLO's national program; to confront the Zionist occupation, its practices, and plans; to foil the Amman agreement; and to confront the reactionary supplementary interference [as heard] that the Jordanian regime and its tools and agents are carrying out.

6. To confront the Jordanian regime's policy that is aimed at participating in the capitulatory U.S. plans to liquidate the Palestine question and ending the Arab-Zionist conflict at the expense of Palestinian and Arab rights and harming the PLO's sole representation of the Palestinian people.

7. To strengthen the strategic alliance with Syria in order to regain the Palestinian people's national firm rights, foremost of which are repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their own independent state on their national soil under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative; to liberate all the occupied Arab territories; and to activate the joint struggle against the Zionist aggression and usurpation and the hegemonic U.S.-Zionist plans, particularly the Camp David accords, the Reagan project, the Amman agreement, the Husayn-'Arafat agreement, and the reactionary alliance's plans.

8. To take joint action with the democratic national Lebanese front and Amal movement in order to increase armed struggle against the Zionist occupation in southern Lebanon and to support their struggle to preserve Lebanon's supremacy, unity, Arabism, and its democratic development; to organize relations with them for the sake of protecting the security of our masses and camps in Lebanon, as well as our people's civil and social interests; to adhere to their legitimate right to organization and political action; to join the ranks of the Palestinian revolution; and to guarantee the PLO's rights and their institutions in Lebanon through the National Salvation Front and its command.

9. To strengthen relations with Egyptian national forces and wage a joint struggle with them by continuing to confront the Egyptian regime, to isolate it, and to besiege it in order to topple the Camp David accords in accordance with PNC resolutions and the Baghdad summit resolutions.

10. To strongly confront the overt and covert contacts between the Zionist forces and figures on the one hand and the symbols of Arab and Palestinian deviation and relinquishment on the other, because such contacts will harm the national and pan-Arab rights.

11. To strengthen militant relations with the Arab liberation movement's forces, groups, and parties in order to carry out the national and progressive tasks by waging a struggle against imperialism and Zionism and their allies in the region, and promoting the joint struggle to confront the trend of deviation and relinquishment and their symbols.

12. To strengthen the alliance with Arab national and progressive regimes in Syria, Libya, the PDRY, and Algeria, and to take action to revive the steadfastness and confrontation front in order that it may assume its pan-Arab tasks.

13. To strengthen and develop militant relations with socialist countries, foremost of which are the friendly Soviet Union and the liberationist, progressive, and democratic movements in the world in order to support the PNSF in achieving its tasks.

14. To strengthen cooperation and friendship with nonaligned, Islamic, African, and Latin American countries, as well as with the forces that support the Palestinian people's just struggle.

Regarding the basic organizational principles, they are as follows:

1. The PNSF is a temporary framework for enabling the PLO to regain its national line that is hostile to imperialism, Zionism, reactionary plans, and capitulatory solutions; to topple the trend of deviation and its symbols; and to guarantee the continuation of the revolution.

2. The PNSF will comprise the Palestinian national groups, forces, and figures in their various places of residence. It is also open to all those who agree on its political program.

3. Relations will be organized within the Salvation Front on democratic militant bases.

4. The Front will have a national command that will make its decisions unanimously; however, if there is no unanimity, the opposing side will have the right to express it position independently. [end recording]

The program ended by mentioning the fifth and sixth clauses of the basic organizational principles, which state:

5. The Front's command will form a number of specialized working committees in light of its needs to carry out its basic tasks. These committees will draw up their bylaws and programs of action that should be approved by the Front's command.

6. Following its formation, the Front's command will draw up bylaws to discipline and organize its work.

Libya's Jallud Meets With Front Leadership

LD251902 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] A meeting was held today in Damascus between Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and the leadership of the Palestinian National Salvation Front and immediately the doc-

ument to establish the front was made public this morning. The importance of establishing the front, its effective role in escalating the armed struggle, and the material practical steps which must be taken to fight the Palestinian and Arab course of betrayal — since the front is a fighting front founded on the basis of escalating the fight — was discussed at the meeting. It has been learned that Staff Major Jallud extended an invitation to the leadership of the front to visit the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

PLO Reacts to Formation of New Palestinian Front

Front Labeled 'Syrian Scheme'

JN260822 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Mar 85 pp 1,4

[By Lamis K. Andoni, *JORDAN TIMES* staff reporter]

[Text] Amman — A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday condemned a newly-formed "Palestinian national salvation front," describing it as "part of a Syrian scheme to form a substitute Palestinian organisation which would be a tool in the hands of Damascus." Khalil al-Wazir, deputy military commander of the PLO, told the *JORDAN TIMES* that the announcement earlier Monday in Damascus that six factions of the PLO have set up the new front was "the culmination of Syrian efforts to contain the PLO and create a new leadership of the organisation under the Syrian thumb."

In a press conference attended by senior officials of the six factions in Damascus, Khalid al-Fahum, former speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), announced the formation of the front which he said was aimed at the forced abrogation of the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO on joint action towards settling the Palestinian problem, and that the front would also escalate armed struggle inside the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. al-Fahum, who was replaced as PNC speaker during the council's 17th session held in Amman last November, denied that the front was aimed at setting up an alternate organisation to replace the PLO.

"The front aims at upholding the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and restoring the unity of the PLO," Mr. al-Fahum told the press conference.

Mr. al-Fahum, who has been closely associated with a four-faction alliance opposed to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat which refuses to establish any contacts with the current leadership of the PLO, did not explain whether the front's intended efforts to reunify the PLO would include the leadership of Fatah, the mainstream commando organisation and Mr. 'Arafat's power-base within the PLO.

Well-informed Palestinian sources in Amman told the *JORDAN TIMES* Monday that the six factions which make the new front "seem to have lost hope in the Fatah leadership which they describe as right wing and have vowed to overthrow."

The sources however, were sceptical whether the new front would "compete with the PLO leadership," but said they expected it to "seek to rally popular support among the Palestinian masses, especially the people living under the Israeli occupation."

Mr. al-Wazir, a member of the Central Committee of Fatah, said such efforts on the part of the new front "are doomed to failure because the current PLO leadership enjoys the support and backing of the Palestinian masses, especially in the occupied territories."

"The formation of the new front cannot be seen different or independent from Syrian plans to divide and contain the PLO and impose the Syrian will on the organisation," he said. The formation of the new front was not a surprise for either the PLO leadership or political observers since it had been an announced goal of the four Damascus-based anti-'Arafat factions which severely criticized the PLO chairman's visit to Cairo and meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in December 1983.

The four factions, which were grouped in a self-styled "national front," could not realise this goal earlier because other major Palestinian factions preferred to continue a dialogue with the Fatah leadership to ensure that Mr. 'Arafat would not take "any unilateral decision as the one to visit Egypt."

However, a decision by the Fatah leadership to convene the PNC in Amman last November and the mainstream movement's endorsement of the Feb. 11 Jordan-PLO accord worked as a determining factor in prompting the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash, to join the new front along with the "national alliance" with which the PFLP was reluctant to break contacts, observers say.

The new front now includes:

- the PFLP;
- the PFLP-General Command led by Ahmad Jibril;
- the dissident wing of the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF);
- the Popular Struggle Front led by Samir Ghawshah;
- Al-Sa'iqah led by 'Isam al-Qadi; and rebels within Fatah led by Colonel Sa'id Musa (Abu Musa).

The PLF, which split because of differences over the convening of the PNC in Amman, is represented by Mahmud 'Abbas in the PLO Executive Committee. However, Damascus-based PLF members who support Tal'at Ya'qub joined the front.

Two other PLO factions, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Nayif Hawatimah and the Palestinian Communist Party headed by Sulayman Najjab, have not joined the front, because they "believe it will eventually lead to the creation of an organisation to replace the PLO," according to informed sources.

Political observers here view the new front as "another step in furthering the divisions in the organisation." They say that the participation of the PFLP in the front has "slammed the door against any future move to reconcile the PLO factions opposed to Mr. 'Arafat with the leadership of Fatah."

Broad Front Formation Ridiculed

JN252155 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1540 GMT 25 Mar 85

["Talk" by the radio's political commentator]

[Text] We have heard radio reports that Damascus will announce — it may have already announced it by now — the birth of a broad front bearing the name of the Palestinian National Salvation Front. We will also hear from the radios — and this may take 1 week or more — fiery slogans and strongly worded statements full of words of treason, deviation, concessions, capitulation, and other such Damascene words, which seem to be the reason for the existence of the Damascus radio and its directors. We will also watch a new play on Damascus television featuring members of a musical band who call themselves Palestinians. They will sing the praises of Hafiz al-Asad and glorify his great triumphs, foremost of which are the liberation of the Golan Heights, repulsing the Zionists from the gates of Damascus, and unifying Lebanon under the banner of Amin al-Jumayyil and Samir Ja'ja'.

We will also learn that after the formation of this broad front, a delegation of its leaders will leave for the Libyan Jamahiriyah in order to sing a song of allegiance and gratitude to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi for his stupendous achievements, foremost of which are lifting the siege around Beirut in 1982, stopping Libyan oil shipments to the United States, and ending the imperialist presence in Asia and Africa with the magic wand of the Green Book. Of course, we will not hear anything that the colonel will say to the broad front's leaders in return. Such things remain top secret in order not to spoil the broth and remove its green, revolutionary, and progressive cover.

We will hear all this over the next few days. We may hear other things also, as long as Damascus television exists and the players and parties that have been going on for months continue to exist. We are not trying to offer a sarcastic commentary on a funny event called the broad front of Damascus. God forbid, we do not mean that because we cannot comment on all the funny elements of this front. Suffice it to say that Jibril is the backbone of this front, Thawshah its strong arm, Al-Fahum its figure head, 'Ali Duba its mover, and the Ba'th Party Regional Congress its national council and the decisionmaker of its birth and death.

For the mistaken few who believe that there are serious aspects to this front, we say that Damascus has become a haven for frustrated and empty fronts during the reign of President Hafiz al-Asad, who showed defeatism during the Lebanese war and during whose era and command the Golan Heights fell and the Israelis reached the gates of Damascus — Al-Asad, whom the people decorated for these triumphs by giving him a 99.9 percent vote as president for life.

In Damascus, a meaningful joke says that whenever threats arise and issues become complicated, the Syrian rulers find themselves unable to do anything, such as fighting for instance. So they resort to forming broad fronts in order to avoid the evils of struggle. They formed a front with Lebanon. It was highlighted on their television and then disappeared like Imam Musa al-Sadr. They formed a front with Jordan, highlighted it on their television, and then it disappeared like its inventor, like dust ['ajaj] in the wind — the word dust ['ajaj] is not used in vain here. [An allusion to Hasan 'Ajaj, the Jordanian Ba'th Party leader, currently in exile in Damascus]

They also formed a front with Iraq and they propagated it on their television, but we have not heard about it for a long time. Now they form a front with Palestine, but we expect this story to last longer because there is a U.S. deal involved and because sabotaging the PLO has become a source of long life for the Damascus regime.

Again we say that we are not being sarcastic. Forgive us because we cannot look at any Damascus product without this tragicomic view. The Syrian president [words indistinct] won by three nines to renew his permanent presidency of Syria. We hope that this president will devote a small part of his efforts to repulsing the Zionists from the gates of Damascus and not to repulsing the PLO from the gates of Palestine.

PLO Official on U.S. Role in Falasha Airlift

LD260046 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], member of the PLO Executive Committee, has made the following statement:

The *LOS ANGELES TIMES* published a report which was broadcast by the BBC on 23 May 1985 to the effect that the CIA planned and executed the transfer of more than 500 Falasha Jews from one of Sudan's small airports. American planes flew them to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport. This operation completes previous ones involving the transfer of 8,000 Falasha Jews to Israel. It is noticeable that this is the first time that a reference is clearly made to the direct role of the American Government and to the role of the CIA in this operation. The PLO looks with pain and protest at the agreement and knowledge of some Arab regimes which contribute to strengthening the Zionist racist regime by supplying it with the human element which it lacks and which it is trying to get by all means, irrespective of the cost. We urge the Arab League Council now being held in Tunis to discuss this operation and its seriousness in relation to the Palestinian cause.

Resistance Operations in South Lebanon Detailed

JN251815 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The heroes of the Lebanese and Palestinian forces continue their operations against the Zionist occupation forces and their agents in occupied southern Lebanon. Yesterday, the joint forces' heroes detonated remote-controlled, highly explosive charges under Zionist patrols and military convoys in Al-Bazuriay and Tyre. The explosions destroyed one half-track Zionist vehicle, damaged two trucks, and killed or injured their occupants. The joint forces heroes also attacked three positions belonging to the so-called army of southern Lebanon in the Tyre port area and in 'Arab Salim and ('Ayyush) villages in southern Lebanon, killing or injuring a number of agent elements. The Zionist military

spokesman admitted the operations saying that his forces immediately launched a large-scale search-and-arrest campaign in a futile attempt to catch the resistance heroes.

West Bank Resistance Operations

JN251804 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Our hero fighters operating inside the occupied homeland are escalating their armed operations against the personnel and vehicles of the Zionist occupation forces and their herds [qut'an] from the Zionist settlers, inflicting on them further losses in personnel and equipment. This is in accordance with the directives of the revolution's command and its decision to escalate armed struggle inside the occupied homeland, the main arena of struggle. The Palestinian military spokesman announced that a group of our fighters attacked a Zionist military patrol, passing near Tulkarm in the occupied West Bank yesterday, using incendiary bombs. A vehicle was burned and its occupants seriously injured. Another group attacked a gathering of Zionist soldiers near Al-Fari'ah prison in the West Bank yesterday using incendiary bombs. A number of Zionist soldiers received serious injuries. The enemy radio admitted the two operations, but refrained from revealing its losses. It said that the Zionist forces immediately began a search campaign and arrested a large number of Palestinian citizens, claiming that they were connected with these operations.

83d Arab League Ministerial Council Session

Sudanese Foreign Minister Arrives

JN251643 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, 25 Mar (SUNA) — Sudanese Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman arrived in Tunis yesterday evening at the head of a delegation to attend the 83d Arab League Ministerial Council session. The Sudanese foreign minister was welcomed at the airport by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and Sudan's Arab League representative Sayyid Sharif Ahmad. 'Uthman and Klibi discussed the session's agenda. 'Uthman also met with Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs.

Transport of Falashas Denied

JN261131 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1017 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, 26 Mar (SUNA) — Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman has denied that the Ethiopian Falashas were transported to Israel from eastern Sudan. In a statement upon arrival in Tunis the day before yesterday, the foreign minister denied that Sudan was a party to such an operation. He stressed that these unjust and fabricated accusations against Sudan coincide with the convocation of the 83d session of the Arab League Council. He added that these accusations have evil objectives that cannot deceive anyone. He said that these accusations are aimed at disrupting the meetings of the Arab League Council and driving a wedge between Sudan and its Arab brothers. The foreign minister added: We in Sudan are used to these vituperations. He said that these vituperations have appeared in the Western news media since Sudan decided to return to its heritage and religion through implementing Islamic law on which the Sudanese people are unanimous.

Commenting on news agencies' reports citing the *LOS ANGELES TIMES* on the possibility that the Falashas were transported to Israel from eastern Sudan, the foreign minister said: We believe that these reports are a link in the chain of desperate attempts against Sudan's pioneering role in the Arab world — a role that seeks to support the Arab nation's issues and to achieve Arab solidarity, which is our only means to confront the Zionist enemy.

Lebanon, Gulf War Discussed

LD252159 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2115 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, 25 Mar (SPA) — The Arab League Council tonight ended its second session which began here this afternoon. During this session the Council adopted three resolutions, two of which concern support for Lebanon and the third which concerns the Iraq-Iran war.

With regard to supporting Lebanon, the Council decided to speed up the assistance which was decided upon by the 10th Arab summit held in Tunis and to entrust the Arab League secretary general with following up the contacts and efforts necessary to this end. The Council also decided to bolster efforts being made by the Lebanese Government to remove the Israeli occupying forces and practices in southern Lebanon. The second resolution stipulates the need to render material assistance to bolster the steadfastness of Lebanese resistance in southern Lebanon. The resolution also stipulates that a week of Arab solidarity with southern Lebanon should be organized during which assistance and donations will be accepted from the people. The Council has also set up a delegation at ministerial level to bolster diplomatic and informational steps for this purpose.

With regard to the Iraq-Iran war, the Council studied the report of the 7-man Arab committee entrusted with following up developments in this war and expressed its concern and regret over the continued fighting between Iraq and Iran and Iran's continued rejection of all peaceful initiatives and its continued aggression on Iraq, which aims to penetrate Iraq's international border and occupy its land. The Council renewed its total solidarity with Iraq in the legitimate defense of its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. The Council stressed the need to mobilize all efforts to put a speedy end to the fighting and to enter into negotiations to achieve a peaceful, just, and honorable solution to the conflict. The Council will resume its work tomorrow morning to complete discussion of the remaining items on the agenda.

'Disappointment' With U.S. Voiced

LD252104 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1308 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, 25 Mar (KUNA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi expressed here today the disappointment of the Arab countries with the policies adopted by U.S. President

Ronald Reagan's administration towards Arab issues, in the forefront of which is the Palestinian issue. In a speech which he delivered at the opening of the 83rd session of the League's Council, which commenced here this afternoon at foreign ministerial level, or those who represent them, he said: "Despite our hopes that after the reelection of President Reagan the American Administration would adopt a policy less biased against Arab demands, we cannot but realize that U.S. relations with Israel at the current stage have become stronger than at any previous time, and this is according to what an American official said in a speech to the House of Representatives."

He added: "Starting from the consideration that Israel is its strategic ally in the region, the American Administration decided recently to increase its military and financial aid to Israel in order to preserve its military superiority and to rescue the Israeli economy from collapse."

Mr Chedli Klibi called on the Arab countries to "incite the American Administration to revise its policies towards the Arab-Israeli conflict and to pursue the search for a comprehensive and permanent solution to this issue."

The opening of the meetings of the League Council session was postponed for several hours in order to give the heads of the delegations a chance to deal with some controversial issues before officially presenting them on the agenda. A senior diplomatic source told KUNA that the head of the Sudanese delegation asked for the investigation of the positions of both Syria and Libya towards the Iraq-Iran war to be included in the agenda as a reply to the demand of the Syrian and Libyan delegations to discuss the issue of the extent of Sudanese responsibility in the immigration of the Falasha Jews to occupied Palestine.

The heads of the Gulf countries and Iraqi delegations held a closed session today with the heads of the Sudanese, Libyan, and Syrian delegations, with the attendance of Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, in order to reach an understanding about these two subjects before presenting them to the League's Council. The diplomatic source said that the head of the Iraqi delegation refused to accept the logic of the head of the Sudanese delegation and his insistence on the withdrawal of investigating the issue of the Falasha Jews from the agenda in exchange for Sudan withdrawing the issue of the extent of the responsibility of both Syria and Libya towards the Iraq-Iran war. The source added that the head of the Iraqi delegation stressed the insistence of his country on presenting the Falasha issue on the agenda of the current session of the League's Council. It has been decided that the heads of the delegations of the 21 member-countries will hold a closed session this afternoon to agree on all the controversial issues before presenting them for study.

GULF AFFAIRS

AFP: Panamanian Freighter Hit in Gulf

NC260929 Paris AFP in English 0914 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Manama, March 26 (AFP) — The 2,435-ton Panamanian-registered freighter *Cape Gwader* put out an S.O.S. an hour after attacks claimed by Iraq against "two large naval targets" in the Gulf, maritime sources here said today. The distress call was monitored at 2 AM (2300 GMT yesterday) from a point off the Saudi port of Jubayl, the sources said.

The *Cape Gwader*, which was carrying building materials from Ra's al-Khaymah in the United Arab Emirates to Kuwait, seemed to have been badly damaged and a tug had put out from Bahrain to go to its aid, the sources added.

Iraq earlier said its warplanes had hit "two large naval targets" near the Iranian Khark Island oil terminal in a raid carried out at 2200 GMT. The term "large naval target" is generally used to mean oil tankers.

BAHRAIN

Amir Returns From Private Visit Abroad

GF251412 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1325 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Manama, 25 Mar (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain, returned to Manama today following a private visit abroad. Among those who received him on his return were His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force; and senior Bahraini officials.

Accompanying his highness the amir of Bahrain on the visit were Mahmud Ahmad al-'Alawi, the prime minister's adviser for financial affairs; Muhammad Yusuf Jalal, chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and a number of officials.

Saudi Planning Minister Arrives for Talks 23 Mar

GF231750 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Manama, March 23 (QNA) — Saudi Planning Minister Dr Hisham Nazir arrived in Manama today for a three-day visit to Bahrain at the invitation of Bahraini Minister of Development and Industry and Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi. Dr Nazir will hold talks with Mr Al-Shirawi on ways of enhancing bilateral cooperation in the domains of development and planning.

Dr Nazir was received at the airport by the Bahraini Minister of Development and Industry and Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Mr Yusuf al-Shirawi; Undersecretary Shaykh 'Isa ibn 'Abdallah Al Khalifah; Saudi Ambassador to Bahrain Ghazi Al-Qusaybi; and the head of the Saudi-Bahrain causeway project Shaykh Ibrahim ibn 'Abdallah Al Khalifah.

Concludes Visit, Departs

GF251748 Manama WAKH in English 1525 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Manama, 25 Mar (WAKH) — Saudi Planning Minister Hisham Nazir and his accompanying delegation left for home today after a three-day visit to Bahrain. Mr. Nazir was seen off by Bahraini Development and Industry Minister and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi and Undersecretary Shaykh 'Isa ibn 'Abdallah Al Khalifah.

During the visit, the Saudi minister held talks with Bahraini officials on cooperation between the two countries in planning and development fields.

KUWAIT

Yugoslav Defense Minister Arrives for Talks

LD251334 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1222 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, 25 Mar (KUNA) — Yugoslav Federal Secretary for National Defense Admiral Branko Mamula arrived here this afternoon heading a military delegation on a 2-day official visit during which he will have talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah.

He was received at the airport by minister of Defense Shaykh Salim al-Sabah; Chief of the General Staff Major General 'Abdallah Farraj al-Ghanim; senior Army officers; and the Yugoslav ambassador to Kuwait.

Admiral Mamula told KUNA on his arrival at the airport that his visit to Kuwait, which will last 2 days, is aimed at discussing with Ministry of Defense officials facets of military cooperation and to exchange views concerning the international situation, especially in the Middle East.

Asked about the possibilities of signing military contracts between the two countries, he said his visit to Kuwait is not aimed at signing any military contracts, but to talk in general about cooperation in the military field and the means to develop these relations in the future.

Adm Mamula added that he will also discuss with Minister of Defense Shaykh Salim al-Sabah and officials at the Ministry of Defense subjects pertaining to the Nonaligned Movement "because Kuwait and Yugoslavia are nonaligned countries and have many matters which they may discuss in light of the world's tense situations." The admiral said: "We are happy to listen to Kuwaiti viewpoints concerning the Iraq-Iran war which has been going on for more than four years, especially now after the escalation of attacks between the two countries."

Adm Mamula will confer tomorrow with the amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. He will also attend some of the Kuwaiti National Assembly's discussions. On Wednesday, he will meet with Minister of Defense Shaykh Salim al-Sabah for official talks aimed at developing the two countries' relations in the military field.

The visiting delegation comprises the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff and Air Defense, Lietenant Colonel General Anton Tus; Commander Milan Daljevic, member of the Ministry of Defense; and Milan Zerovic, assistant minister of defense.

Official Talks With France Begin 23 Mar

LD232323 Kuwait KUNA in English 1308 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 23 (KUNA) — France and Kuwait began here Saturday official talks to discuss the Gulf War, the Middle East crisis and economic ties between the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), an official source said.

The French side was represented by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Francois Gutman, who arrived here earlier in the day leading a ministry delegation for three days of talks, and the French Ambassador to Kuwait Jean Bressot. The Kuwaiti side was led by Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and comprised Kuwait's ambassador to Paris 'Isa al-Hamad and representatives from various departments of the Foreign Ministry.

Shahin told KUNA after the meeting the talks were an extension of discussions earlier in the day between Gutman and Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad.

As the talks touched on the Middle East crisis, Shahin reaffirmed Kuwait's abidance by resolutions of the Fes Arab summit conference and that Kuwait believes there can be no Middle East settlement without an international peace conference attended by all parties involved, including the PLO, he said.

Advocating the international conference, Shahin said the Kuwaiti position "stems from the belief that no country can resolve the question single-handedly." Shahin, however, said the French side had its own viewpoint on the issue. He would not elaborate. Kuwait, he said, laid special emphasis on the need for more concerted efforts to end the destructive Iran-Iraq war, saying the continuation of the conflict poses threats to regional and global peace and security.

The two sides called for bolstering cooperation between the EEC and the GCC, and exploring new venues in this respect, he added. The second round of talks between the two sides is scheduled for Sunday morning after which Shahin will host a luncheon banquet for Gutman and the accompanying delegation.

GCC-ECC Ties Discussed

LD251152 Kuwait KUNA in English 1008 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 25 (KUNA) — The second round of talks between Kuwait and the French Foreign Ministry's delegations ended here last night, according to press report Monday [25 March].

Foreign Ministry's Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin told daily *AL-SIYASAH* that the talks in which the French side was headed by General Secretary Francois Gutman currently visiting the country concentrated on relations between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states and the European Economic Community (EEC) member states. Shahin added that the talks also dealt with the situation in the Middle East.

The French official leaves here today following a three-day official visit during which he met with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and held talks covering various international developments, the Gulf war, Palestinian and Lebanese crisis.

Gutman Evaluates Talks

LD260957 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1355 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait 25 Mar (KUNA) — Secretary General of the French Foreign Ministry Mr Francois Gutman said that during his visit to Kuwait he had "fruitful and constructive" talks with Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and other officials, which included bilateral relations between the two countries and joint issues. Mr Gutman described the views of the two sides during the talks as "identical."

At the end of a 3-day official visit he said that he will return to Paris "fully convinced that it is important and beneficial to develop amicable relations between the two countries." He praised the warm reception and the hospitality which he found during the visit. He stressed that the visit was amicable and straight-forward and denied that it has anything to do with any of the events in the region.

The French official told KUNA that putting an end to the Iraq-Iran war is a matter for the United Nations and the international community. He said: "If France and the other European countries could make any efforts in this direction to help in finding a solution, they will not hesitate."

Mr Gutman said that France sees the recent Jordanian-Palestinian agreement as part of the framework of international efforts exerted for solving the Middle East crisis. He added that his country's position is not restricted solely to this agreement. He pointed out that the French Government has declared more than once that it approves the principle of holding at the proper time an international conference which should be attended by all concerned parties. "On the other hand, realities dictate that France should admit that the time is not yet right for holding such a conference guaranteeing success." He added: "This does not mean that we are standing still while waiting for an opportunity for holding the conference." He stressed that France "is doing everything it can to keep up momentum for a solution." He said that France sees the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement in this light, but the way is still long."

He stressed again that "to look for the required solution, you must go back to the region and to the concerned parties." He said that because France is a country friendly to the region, it can help in searching for and supplying suitable circumstances for a solution, "but at the same time, it cannot be an alternative or substitute for others." Mr Gutman pointed out that "many of the tragedies of the region were caused by the intervention of external powers in its problems."

Mr Gutman left the country at noon today for Paris. He was seen off at the airport by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Mr Sulayman Majid al-Shahin; Kuwaiti Ambassador to Paris Mr 'Isa al-Hamad; French Ambassador to Kuwait Mr Jean Bressot; the staff of the embassy; and Mr Munthir al-'Isa from the protocol section.

PRC Petroleum Minister Received by Amir 25 Mar

LD251405 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] At 0900 this morning the amir of Kuwait received the PRC minister of petroleum and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Minister of Oil and Industry Shaykh Khalifah al-'Adhbi and Deputy Chairman of the Board of the Kuwaiti Petroleum Corporation 'Abd al-Razzaq Mullah Husayn, and the PRC ambassador to Kuwait.

Received by Prime Minister

LD251413 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Salim al-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister, received PRC Minister of Petroleum Tang Ke and his accompanying delegation at 1000 this morning. Kuwait's minister of oil and China's ambassador to Kuwait also attended the meeting.

Joint Talks End

LD260727 Kuwait KUNA in English 1343 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 25 (KUNA) — The Sino-Kuwaiti official talks on cooperation in oil areas concluded here by noon Monday after agreeing on several issues in the field of oil exploration and investment in the energy sector, sources of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) told KUNA.

The talks were presided over by Oil and Industry Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah and the visiting Chinese Minister of Petroleum Industry Tang Ke. The sources added the deputy board chairman and managing director of KPC for administrative and financial affairs 'Abd al-Razzak Mullah Husayn and other officials of the corporation have participated in the talks. The two sides have started their official talks Saturday evening discussing the issues tackled during the visit to China by Shaykh 'Ali early last January.

AL-WATAN Interviews Defense Minister on Gulf Issues

GF241610 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 23 Mar pp 6, 7

[Interview with Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah al-Salim by *AL-WATAN* chief editor Jasim al-Mutawwa' in Kuwait — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Mutawwa'] The Iraqi-Iranian war is escalating these days. From your position what is the information available to you? Do you think that the war has entered a new stage that is different from the previous stages?

[Al-Sabah] The recent developments in the war are a continuation of this war which is almost 5 years old. This war has become a war of attrition. This war of attrition gives a chance to each party to prepare and reorganize itself and make its plans in order to be ready to attack at any time. In my view, what happened recently is an escalation of the operation and has a political nature as well as a military nature. Any development in this escalation may lead to a more critical situation such as the continuation of the war. Therefore, the last attack has significance for the world, especially the Gulf.

[Al-Mutawwa'] Is there any possibility that the war may expand to the Kuwaiti borders? Are the Armed Forces prepared for such possibility?

[Al-Sabah] There is no doubt in that. Since the beginning of the war we have been studying all its directions and preparing our positions and air and ground defenses as a precaution for the consequences and we have been consolidating the locations which may pose a weakness for Kuwait. Therefore, as you can see we have prevented visitors from entering Bubiyan Island because it has become a military island equipped with antiaircraft weapons. There is a plan for Bubiyan Island and there are plans for other locations and sensitive centers in Kuwait. The compulsory recruitment is of a very great importance for these plans. I proudly say that compulsory service in the Army is not a picnic.

[Al-Mutawwa'] Kuwait's speech at the recent meetings of the GCC ministerial council pointed out that the GCC bears the responsibility of warding off any danger to the region. What is the practical action taken for this purpose? What is the role of the joint forces which the last GCC summit decided to form? How far is the practical implementation of this decision?

[Al-Sabah] There is no doubt that you understand what is meant by warding off dangers. Brother Abu Nasir [Kuwaiti foreign minister] is an experienced politician who chooses precise words for the purpose intended and this is the nature of the Gulf citizens and the Kuwaitis in particular. We speak briefly.

When we say warding off dangers we mean that our country is not an aggressive country and that the Gulf countries are peaceful countries which do not harbor hostility toward anyone. But we will never forgive anyone who tries to play with the security of our countries internally or externally. Our principle in Kuwait and in the GCC as defense ministers is based on the fact that any attack on any Gulf country is an attack on us all and this is affirmed by the Arab League Charter too. Therefore, we have to make common arrangements and conduct joint exercises so that we can defend the Gulf by ourselves and foil the attempts of those who want to interfere on the pretext of defending us or assisting us to defend ourselves. I believe that when Brother Abu Nasir said this he meant it and meant that the sons of Kuwait and Gulf countries are the ones who will repulse any aggression against their countries.

There is no doubt that the joint forces are existing and are represented by the Peninsula Shield forces. The "Peninsula-1"

and "2" exercises were carried out and the forces are still carrying out their exercises. One cannot melt all the Gulf forces together. It is necessary to form a homogeneous nucleus that can repel any danger on the spot and rapidly. This force should be rapidly deployed and should have clear tasks in defense. What is important is the principle of participation — the participation with a soldier, or a battalion or a brigade. All the Gulf countries will be one hand and will cooperate to deter any aggression against their territories.

[Al-Mutawwa'] In this case and for armament specifically, don't you think that for the formation of this nucleus these countries should have unified training and homogeneous weapons and that there should not be any loopholes? Did you study this?

[Al-Sabah] There are two schools regarding the unification of arms, a school that believes in the unification of arms and a school that believes in the diversification of arms sources. Experience proves that the diversification of arms sources is better. The political matters and the ability not to be subjected to pressures when more weapons are needed are most important.

Experience in this regard has proved the validity of this. You may be surprised to know that even arms-producing countries use this method. Britain, for example, purchases arms from Europe and the United States also purchases some of its arms from Europe. Arms sometimes impose themselves on the state. This means that if I want to purchase a durable weapon, for example artillery, I have to seek what is best for me. As a Kuwaiti, I may find this kind of weapon in France, so France will be my source of this kind of weapon. If I want missiles, I may find that Soviet missiles have advantages which meet my manpower capability and individual competence. These missiles, therefore, will be suitable for me. This means that I may find the suitable fighter planes in the United States and the suitable tanks in Britain, and so on.

In this case, I choose what is best for me and at the same time I do not become tied to one party or authority. Out of this principle, diversification is better and it gives the opportunity for arms to complement each other. Weapons are almost similar in the region's countries because sources of weapons in the world are a few and if you do not purchase arms from one source you will have to purchase it from another. Therefore you find that our weapons in the Gulf are similar.

Saudi Arabia, for example, is using British and U.S. fighter planes; the UAE uses French fighter planes; we, in Kuwait, have French and U.S. fighter planes and some old British ones. There is cooperation and coordination in this field. There are no loopholes. If there are any, they can be filled. Something of this sort was experienced at the beginning during the "Peninsula Shield" exercises. In telecommunications, for example, some equipment did not fit on others. What we did is that one kind of Kuwaiti equipment was put in the command and control tent, and when there was a need to contact us, they did so through our equipment to give us instructions through coordination. This also was the case in tanks.

[Al-Mutawwa'] The force which the Gulf summit has defined, where is it?

[Al-Sabah] The force was approved initially by the leaders. The formation was passed to the defense ministers who charged their technicians and directors of operations. The [Saudi] chief of staff and director of operations, Brigadier General Salim al-Turki, was here a few days ago. He presented to me his visualization. This visualization will be submitted to the chiefs of staff to study and decide on. Their recommendations will be submitted to us, the defense ministers. When we meet, we will approve the detail and names. The commander will be Saudi, and his rank has been defined. Brother Sultan [ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz] will choose the commander for this force. Saudi Arabia has been chosen to lead this force because it has more military personnel. There is and internationally acknowledged theory which states that command should be given to whoever has more military personnel. This brings me to talk about the Western nations. If we take the NATO, for example, we will find that its command is usually given to the countries which have more contributions. The diversification of weapons is also found in Europe. This proves my theory that diversified weapons is alright and does not necessarily affect others. On the contrary, it complements itself. German, French, U.S., British, and Italian weapons are ultimately homogeneous and fulfill one plan, each according to its task.

[Al-Mutawwa'] Has the number of soldiers for each country been defined according to its army?

[Al-Sabah] No ratio has been defined. The thing was left to each country to give what it can. For example, some countries are not able to offer one brigade, but can give one battalion, or more. Kuwait, for example, has given two battalions. Saudi Arabia has given almost one brigade. The issue is on of total strength. I think that is the question in your mind. Let me answer it before you ask it. The total of this force is about two brigades, or slightly less than that.

[Al-Mutawwa'] Does this not raise questions regarding the force which participates more, or other questions on this matter?

[Al-Sabah] These are pessimistic questions — if you allow me, Brother Jasim, to use this phrase — and I hope they will not be posed even by Kuwait or Gulf nationals in particular, and Arab nationals in general. I wish to answer this with certain facts so that one can be clear with regard to the reader by talking to him through our esteemed *AL-WATAN*. When Kuwait made a contribution with fraternal Syria and Egypt, the ratio of Kuwaiti military personnel with regard to the Egyptian Army was nearly nothing, and with regard to the Syrian Army, also nothing. However, the Kuwaiti soldier fought with a spirit that represents Kuwait and was motivated by Kuwait's belief in Arab causes. We offered martyrs. Then how about in the Gulf, his country? The individual must make contributions just as the group does. As I said at the beginning, it is a symbolic force representing Gulf solidarity and fraternity. Consequently, when I participate with two battalions, this does not mean that it stops at the limit of two battalions.

[Al-Mutawwa'] Going back to the subject of arms diversification, we have agreed that this is proof of the country's independence. When a country is independent and its political decisionmaking is independent, it will be able to make its purchases anywhere and will not be at the mercy of a particular party.

[Al-Sabah] Your analysis is correct from the political point of view. I did not touch on this matter from the political point of view because I committed myself to talk with regard to the military side. However, your analysis is correct from the political point of view. This is what it means and what it proves.

[Al-Mutawwa'] For this reason we find that Kuwait is free to choose its weapons.

[Al-Sabah] Kuwait's freedom is limited by the type and quality of the weapons. Kuwait is respected by the government with which we deal regarding the subject of arms because we always buy weapons from governments and through them. This is a policy laid down by his highness the heir apparent and which we have followed at the Defense Ministry. It has become Kuwait's policy. Kuwait's respect springs from its freedom of choice and direct dealing with the governments. I remember that in the case of a particular weapon, our experts had studied it and wanted to get it, but when we asked the [concerned] government, it declined. It said: Go ahead and make a deal with the company. However, we told them: "We are sorry," we do not want this weapon, and we chose the other. We actually asked the other delegation for a discussion. Suddenly the ambassador contacted us and said: "I want to discuss the matter with you." I said: If you have changes regarding acceptance, then you are welcome. He said yes. He came, and made the offer again. We brought them over, and discussed the matter with them and with the others and obtained a very large discount because they found we were serious in that matter, and that we were not bargaining. They believed that we would submit to them if they said no. However, the situation changed when I bade them off. Their government was compelled to make a pledge that the deal will be direct, without any go-betweens and without any arms dealers.

[Al-Mutawwa'] I remember that during one of its meetings with you, *AL-WATAN* posed a question on the attacks on tankers. You said that measures are being taken in the event there are attacks on tankers in the future. In fact, there has been attacks on tankers recently. Is there a way to protect our tankers from attacks in the light of the new developments?

[Al-Sabah] This question can be interpreted in several ways. However, what I want to say is this: Where were these tankers hit? They were not hit within Kuwait's borders. I am responsible for Kuwait's borders and its security.

If memory does not fail me, I said in one of my statements: If they are brave, let them come to my land and I am ready for a confrontation. I want now to repeat this statement. I have men of whom I am proud, whether in the ground forces, the Navy, or the Air Force. They also are more ready than I am for these matters. The tanker that you are talking about was hit outside the range of radar and was hit by Iran. This ship, as you know, is leased by the oil company and is not Kuwaiti.

[Al-Mutawwa'] It is agreed that it is better to ensure full protection so that these tankers are not hit in our territorial waters or near it. Is it possible to reduce the danger to these tankers through coordination among the Gulf countries or by patrol ships or warships from the Gulf itself?

[Al-Sabah] There are technical problems regarding these questions such as the depth of the sea. The draft of the ship is big when it is loaded and needs deep waters. It is important in this case for the ship to pass through international waters. Here, the control over these international waters falls under legal and international questions. There are ways and methods for protecting these ships as long as they are within territorial waters, provided that their drafts allow them to pass, but they become out of control of the concerned countries when they enter international waters.

[Al-Mutawwa'] Talks were held between Kuwait and the United States to develop an early warning network and to be connected with the AWACs. It was said that the United States has agreed to that. What are the steps which followed that? When will this system be implemented? Do we have enough defenses to protect Kuwait's airspace against any possible aggression?

[Al-Sabah] Allow me to clarify some points about these talks which many media men think were held. I don't intend to defend the U.S. Administration, but I only intend to clarify this point when I say that the U.S. Administration has to obtain permission beforehand from Congress for the purpose of selling any weapons to any friendly country which does not pose a threat to it or to its interests as far as security is concerned. What do the news agencies do? They monitor the news and circulate it by saying that the United States agreed to sell to Kuwait this or that, while the truth remains that Kuwait has not made any request. The U.S. Administration has a plan which states: If Kuwait surprises us with a request for F-16 planes for example, I cannot sell them immediately because I don't have permission from the Congress beforehand. Therefore, it is necessary to obtain a permission beforehand. If we then make the request for the planes they will have the chance of selling them to us and if we do not make our request they keep the planes. This happened.

One time we spoke with the United States about matters concerning air defense but we found that the French air defense is much more suitable for us and we signed an agreement with the French Government which, I say proudly, was studied by Kuwaiti technicians and officers both technically and tactically. They submitted to us clear memorandums. I spoke to them and asked them to be patient with me. I told them: We will bring to you experts from neutral countries to study the work which you carried out. I have no doubt in your work, but I just want to make sure, because I am entrusted with a great responsibility. I want to make sure that you are going in the correct way. When I find out that your report is identical to the report of the experts I will be more proud of you. I want to protect you as future experts. I want to protect you from any mistakes which may make you liable to a great responsibility in the future.

They accepted my advice with open hearts. Then we brought in the experts. I say proudly that these experts assured me that the reports of our experts were correct and that their style was correct and that the points they tackled with regard to air defense in low levels from zero to 10,000 feet were 100 percent correct. Therefore, I congratulated them and the heir apparent and chairman of the supreme defense council congratulated them. The amir also blessed their work. We signed the agreement on basis of Kuwaiti studies and experiences. The agreement is about

to be finalized and we have begun installing some of the equipment which arrived.

[Al-Mutawwa'] Regardless of this, are the defenses which we possess enough protection?

[Al-Sabah] They will be when they are completed. We did not have enough low level and very low level radars simply because at that time we did not need them; but now we need them. Therefore, we signed a contract with the French. Some equipment began to arrive and we began to install them. Everything will be complete and integrated after the arrival of the equipment.

[Al-Mutawwa'] In case that all defensive preparations have been completed, does it mean that the coordination and the exchange of information with the GCC states will end or will Kuwait be in need of cooperation in this field?

[Al-Sabah] On the contrary, we must increase cooperation in this field. This does not means that when we achieve such matters that we stop cooperation. No, there are more developments and better equipment which we change after some years. We still maintain direct lines of communication and exchanges of information with the GCC states. On the contrary, this equipment will be an active and contributory element in the development of communications and putting the brothers into the picture.

[Al-Mutawwa'] Regarding military developments around us, you must have benefited from Gulf information. Has this information contributed to avoiding dangers and helped the defense system?

[Al-Sabah] There have been communications. They have two aspects: speed and extreme necessity. The second aspect has its own dangers but its importance is not very urgent. When we use to see some aircraft reported by some brothers in the Gulf. Our sightings have usually been confirmed. To explain further, the radar picks up the plane as a moving dot, then we observe it and plot its path. Later we receive information from the Gulf states confirming the credibility of our information and we reassure them that we will be in contact with them. Then the fighters intercept and keep it away from the region. We have benefited from our cooperation with the Gulf states in this field.

[Al-Mutawwa'] Does our airspace allow such training? You know that our airspace is not that vast vis-a-vis the speed of various aircraft.

[Al-Sabah] Our airspace is suitable in the western and the southern regions and to some extend in the eastern region. We are coordinating with Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. There are aerial training zones. We inform civil aviation about the training zones to avoid the presence of civilian aircraft in these zones.

[Al-Mutawwa'] Do you allow the GCC states to use these aerial zones in their training?
[Al-Sabah] Yes, without question as long as we are aware of it.

[Al-Mutawwa'] How can we benefit from the military situation around us?

[Al-Sabah] The Kuwaiti Army has benefited from the responsibility and the present threat. It is alert evaluating the events, and following what is happening around it. The Navy is currently in the northern region. In the past when the Navy saw a launch they used to say it was a fishing boat but now things have changed and it will try to confirm it. It is a short of caution.

In the past when the radar detected an airplane, they would say it was far from our airspace. But now they observe it carefully and issue orders to the operations room. The operations room alerts the base. The base acts even though the aircraft is far away. These are precautionary steps and the readiness for the state of war.

New Social Affairs Minister, Counsellor Named

LD241036 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] A decree has been issued accepting the resignation of Yusif Muhammad al-Nisf, minister of social affairs and labor, from his post.

Another decree has been issued appointing Defense Minister Salim Sabah al-Salim as minister of social affairs and labor in addition to his defense position.

A decree was published in today's *OFFICIAL GAZETTE* appointing 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn as counsellor to the office of his highness the amir of Kuwait with the rank of minister.

SAUDI ARABIA

French Minister Confers With Defense Official

LD251221 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1055 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, 25 Mar (SPA) — His Highness Prince Fahd al-'Abdallah, assistant to the minister of defense and aviation and inspector general for civil aviation, conferred today with Paul Quiles, French minister of urban planning, housing, and transportation, and his accompanying delegation who are currently visiting the Kingdom. Amicable talks were held.

Planning Minister Comments on Development Plan

GF251726 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Manama, 25 Mar (WAKH) — Saudi Planning Minister Hisham Nazir said that the Kingdom's 4th development plan was in harmony with the development strategy established by the GCC planning and development ministers and approved recently in Riyadh.

Mr Nazir said in a press conference that the Saudi 4th plan was production oriented. He added that industry and agriculture, quality product and rationalization were priority concern of the plan.

The Saudi minister pointed out that the first year budget of the four-year plan was released and confirmed that Saudi Arabia

was able to offset its assets and liabilities. He said that the plan had pinpointed the expenditure over the coming five years at one billion Saudi riyals approximately and that the annual growth rate will be 4 percent out of the gross national product estimated at 2.9 percent of non-oil gross national product.

The Saudi minister went on to say that the Saudi private sector could make use of the infrastracture in Al-Jubayl, Yanbu' and other areas. It also can exploit the quality product of the petrochemical industries in Al-Jubayl and Yanbu', the Saudi minister said.

Replying to a question on bases followed by the Saudi Kingdom to retionalize spending, Mr Nazir said that Saudi Arabia is following strategy in an attempt to reach balance between a cost and price and due to this theres also increase in power tariff. Water tariffs are also considered. The Saudi minister pointed out that his country is concentrating on industry, agriculture and mining.

He stressed that the cooperation between the AGCC member states in the fields of planning and development is going on the same path based on a unified strategy.

UAE

British Naval Ships Begin UAE Visits 23 Mar

Destroyer Enters Al-Shariqah Port

GF231107 Doha QNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 23 Mar (QNA) — The British destroyer *HMS Manchester* arrived at Al-Shariqah port this morning on a friendly 4-day visit. The destroyer is one of the largest air and naval defense ships of the British fleet. It is equipped with the most advanced weapons and means of self-defense.

Frigate Arrives at Zeyed

GF231702 Manama WAKH in English 1615 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 23 (GNA) — Acting chief of staff of the UAE Armed Forces, Brigadier Shaykh Muhammed Salim, received here today commander of the British Royal Navy frigate Captain M.A. Moor.

The British Royal Navy frigate *Andromeda* arrived at Zeyed seaport today on a five-day good will mission to the UAE.

PDRY

Ethiopian Industry Minister Arrives 23 Mar

GF231540 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Comrade Hailu Yemanu, member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Ethiopia and Ethiopian minister of industry, arrived in Aden today on a visit to the PDRY.

In a press statement, Comrade Yemanu said that he is carrying a message to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, from Comrade Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

He said that he will hold talks with the party and state officials on bilateral relations and will be briefed on all the accomplishments achieved by the PDRY in a number of economic, cultural and social fields.

Economic Committee Session With Algeria Ends

GF251846 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The second session of the Algerian-Yemeni joint economic committee concluded this morning at the petroleum exploration center. A protocol was signed following the second session. The protocol refers to ways of developing and enhancing cooperation in the economic, cultural, information, and social fields.

The protocol was signed on the Yemeni side by Brother Nasr Nasir 'Ali, member of the YSP Central Committee, minister of labor and civil service, and chairman of the Yemeni side at the session. It was signed on the Algerian side by Brother Mustafa ibn Ammar, deputy finance minister, official in charge of the budget and public property, and chief of the Algerian delegation to the joint PDRY-Algerian economic committee.

A trade agreement also was signed between our country and Algeria by Brother Nasr Nasir 'Ali and Brother Mustafa Ammar.

The session resulted in an initial agreement on the cancellation of entry visis in order to facilitate travel between the two countries, consolidate brotherly projects, and realize the ambitions of the two peoples for unity and progress.

The date of the next session of the joint committee in Algeria during 1986 was fixed.

Brother Mustafa ibn Ammar, deputy finance minister and official in charge of the budget and public property, and his accompanying delegation left Aden today after heading the Algerian side in the work of the Yemeni-Algerian joint economic committee.

In statement to ANA, he expressed satisfaction at the results of this session. He said that this session came within the framework of developing and enhancing the fields of cooperation between the two fraternal countries and for achieving more accomplishments in the field of economic development.

He was seen off at the airport by Brother Nasr Nasir 'Ali, member of the YSP Central Committee and minister labor and civil service.

Defense Minister Departs for Libya 25 Mar

GF251416 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Brother Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, member of the YSP Political Bureau and minister of defense, left Aden this morning for the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to participate in the national festivities of Evacuation Day.

Prior to his departure, he made statement to ANA in which he said: We are leaving today for Libya in response to an invitation by Brigadier General Abu Bakr Yunis, general commander of the Libyan Armed Forces, in order to participate in the festivities of the Socialist People's Arab Jamahiriyah on the anniversary of Evacuation Day. He added that this great occasion comes at a time when the Arab people in Libya have managed to get rid of foreign military bases and managed to consolidate their national independence.

Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim stated: Our visit to Libya will consolidate the relations between our fraternal countries' forces and allow us to feel the great accomplishments achieved by our Arab people in Libya and the great achievements gained by the Libyan Armed Forces and their expertise in the militarization of the cities.

Mubarak Reviews Results of U.S. Visit
NC252225 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] President Husni Mubarak attended a meeting of the National Democratic Party [NDP] this evening. Also present were: Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, NDP secretary general; Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education and scientific research; Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid; members of the NDP Politburo and General Secretariat; and members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council.

According to Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, President Mubarak reviewed Egypt's pioneering role in leading the Arab world. This role stems from its influence, culture, and history. President Mubarak described Egypt's leading role as a duty dictated by fate, and as serving the interests of Egypt and her people.

Mubarak dealt with various aspects of the foreign political situation, Egypt's efforts on behalf of the Palestinian issue, and its support for the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. He declared that Egypt's policy and actions stem from its pan-Arab commitments and its own supreme interests.

President Muabrak also discussed the implications and results of his visits to the United States and a number of European countries. President Mubarak stated that the U.S. Administration and its President understood Egypt's proposals to support and provide an impetus to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement. President Mubarak emphasized that the positive results of his visits will appear gradually in the future. He said: Future moves, as well as developments in the Palestinian issue, will show the results of Egypt's efforts.

President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt's pride and that of her people are high, and above any consideration. He said the great powers respect Egypt, its will, and its decisions. He also touched upon the U.S. Administration's action regarding procedures to increase aid, and the discussions held on this question by the subcommittee.

President Mubarak also reviewed the results of his visit to Europe. He explained that world public opinion now speaks favorably of Egypt after having realized that it is the Arab country capable of stimulating the world's influential powers and the parties concerned with the issue.

President Mubarak highlighted his eagerness to meet with His Majesty King Husayn upon his return from the United States and Europe. He sought to brief the king on the results of his talks and exchanges with the U.S. Administration. He also discussed his meeting with King Husayn and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, who welcomed the visit, and stressed that it was dictated by Egypt's values and by Arab brotherhood.

President Mubarak also reviewed developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the efforts Iraq is making to defend its national soil. In response to a question, Mubarak pointed out that Egypt is great, and that no power can harm her. He said that anyone who seeks to hurt Egypt should save his energy, focus on his people's freedom, and maintain good-neighborly relations.

Ghali on Peace Treaty With Israel
NC260902 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stressed that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty is alive and holding. Egypt adheres to it, he added, and abides by its letter and spirit. In a statement marking the 6th anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty, published in the Tuesday issue of *AL-AKHBAR*, Dr Ghali said that it is wrong to imagine that the treaty is dead. After the passage of 6 years, I can say that the vision has become clear to everyone. If the crossing of the Suez Canal by Egyptian forces in 1973 was a decisive victory for the Egyptian military, then history has proven that the signing of the peace treaty on 26 March 1979 is a decisive victory for Egyptian diplomacy.

Dr Ghali affirmed that the security arrangements outlined in the peace treaty absolutely do not infringe upon Egyptian sovereignty. He said: "Egyptian sovereignty over the Sinai is complete just like any other spot in Egypt." He further said: The security arrangements do not infringe upon Egyptian sovereignty since they took place with Egypt's approval and by an Egyptian decision.

He added: The security arrangements apply to both sides of the border; that is, what applies to Egypt also applies to Israel. In addition, these arrangements are temporary and I do not rule out the possibility of reconsidering them in the future through exchanges by both parties.

Despite the fact that certain defects ['uyub] exist in the formulation of the treaty articles, Dr Ghali pointed out that "the (?articles) reached after arduous talks were, in my opinion, the best that we could reach under the circumstances." He noted that what counts is not the articles themselves as much as the deeds, results, and the spirit that prevails in translating these articles into facts. The main outcome of the peace treaty, he affirmed, was Isreal's withdrawal from all Egyptian territory occupied since June 1967.

In response to a question on Israel's accusation that Egypt's withdrawal of its ambassador in Tel Aviv does not respect the treaty, Dr Butrus Ghali said: This is a distortion by Israel or, in the best circumstances, a lack of understanding and incorrectly translating the article in question. Under the treaty Egypt was committed to sending an ambassador. We respected this and implemented our commitment when we decided to appoint an Egyptian ambassador to Isreal. However, we did not make a commitment that this ambassador should stay forever. What Egypt actually pledged was the normalization of relations or, in other words, that there should be normal relations as exemplified by Egypt's relations with the rest of the world. Egypt has the right to withdraw its ambassador from any of the world capitals if it decides to do so. Would it be logical to make an exception for Tel Aviv? Is it not our right to withdraw our ambassador when we want and from wherever we want? Egypt has the right to withdraw any of its ambassadors from Tel Aviv or elsewhere

without any restrictions or conditions. Anything other than this would be a legal distortion and a false claim.

Dr Ghali added: We withdrew the Egyptian ambassador from Israel as an expression of our complete rejection of Israel's aggressive policy in Lebanon. Diplomatic representation is the essence of sovereignty.

Replying to a question on the relationship between the peace treaty and the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, Dr Butrus Ghali said: There is no connection between the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and the peace treaty. However, there is no doubt that the peace treaty will help to create the political atmosphere necessary for Egypt to participate in building bridges between the Palestinian and Jordanian positions, and the Israeli position.

Dr Ghali added: The ideas Egypt has advanced and the current Egyptian efforts are aimed at creating a dialogue and giving an impetus to negotiations to reach a just, permanent and comprehensive solution. Therefore, there is absolutely no contradiction between these efforts and the peace treaty.

Dr Ghali continued: On the very first day of the peace initiative, Egypt emphasized that although it completely adheres to the goal, it is flexible regarding the means used to reach it; that goal being the restoration of Arab territories occupied in 1967 and allowing the Palestinian people to exercise their rights. This is a goal from which Egypt will not budge and toward which it remains inflexible. As to how this goal will be attained, we are prepared to knock at every door and to take any path that would lead to it, whether this path be autonomy negotiations, an international conference, a Jordanian-Palestinian-American dialogue, President Reagan's proposals, the Fes initiative, or anything else. There is [word indistinct] in Egyptian policy regarding the goal and flexibility will be the means.

In response to a question on whether Israel's practices in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and south Lebanon were a violation of the peace agreement, Dr Ghali said: The peace agreement is based on UN principles and objectives, and on the principles of international law. When Israel contravenes the principles of international law by violating human rights in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and through its repressive practices in the occupied Arab territories, it is undoubtedly violating the peace treaty. We have condemned and continue to strongly condemn these practices. We consider the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, the annexation of the Syrian Golan and Arab Jerusalem as measures that completely contradict the text and spirit of the peace treaty.

Replying to a question on whether the supplementary agreement appended to the peace treaty was still in force, Dr Ghali said: It is still in force. Proof of this is our request that the U.S. Government continue playing the role of full partner and participate in all phases of negotiations. Our legal basis for this request is the text contained in the final paragraph of the supplementary agreement which stipulates that the U.S. Government fully participate in all phases of the negotiations. Since we have not reached another framework for negotiations approved by all parties, the interest would best be served by keeping this agreement in force.

Manpower Minister Departs for Amman

NC261106 Cairo MENA in English 0855 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, March 26 (MENA) — Manpower and Vocational Training Minister Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad left here today for Amman for a four-day visit during which he will sign an agreement for bilateral cooperation in labour field.

The agreement includes regulation of employment of the Egyptian workers in Jordan, their insurance system, and the equal treatment between the Egyptian workers and the Jordanian nationals, Sa'd Muhammad Ahmad said in a pre-departure statement.

The manpower minister added that he will also meet with the representatives of the labour community there in the presence of the Egyptian labour advisor in Jordan to get acquainted with the workers' problems and adequate solutions.

Information Minister Leaves for Addis Ababa

NC260713 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA) — Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and Salah Jalal, chief of the African journalists, left Cairo early this morning en route to Addis Ababa. There they will attend meetings at a conference of African information ministers, scheduled to open on Wednesday and continue for 3 days.

AL-AHRAM on al-Qadhdhafi, Ties With Iraq

PM252021 Cairo AL-AHRAM International Edition in Arabic 22 Mar 85 pp 1, 3

[Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' article: "The Story of Mubarak's Visit to Iraq and Egypt's View on Arab Reality"]

[Excerpts] "Men work while children play." This is one of the ancient rules of life, but it is strange for one to recall it in connection with talk about political facts, the current situation, or Egypt's sincere efforts to restore rights and establish peace.

I suddenly remembered it when I heard a strange news report which said that the Libyan colonel, who only 2 days ago proudly announced that he was "an international terrorist wanted in most of the world countries," has called for convening an Arab summit to discuss all the Arab countries boycotting the United States and threatening its interests in the area, not because it supports Israel's stand against Arab rights or for another likely political reason, but because the United States, as the colonel alleges, has "insulted" President Mubarak, and consequently Egypt, when it failed to arrange for him to spend a weekend outside Washington at the beginning of his visit, as it did for King Fahd who spent such a weekend in Bermuda. Instead, President Mubarak was left to spend the weekend in his hotel until the time came to begin his official meetings with the U.S. Administration at the beginning of the week.

I hope that no one will think I am joking in telling this strange story. It is a true story, since the Libyan colonel has actually held

contacts in this regard with some Arab presidents and kings about whom he told a Lebanese paper that he would assassinate them all. It appears that the "reaction" of the presidents and kings were not satisfactory to the colonel and, therefore, he threatened them with grave consequences in the first press statement he made immediately after these contacts.

I do not think that anyone needs to deny the story of the alleged insult to Mubarak as totally unfounded. Also, there is no need to say that the itinerary of visits by heads of state to the United States are set out in accordance with traditional etiquette. Heads of state arrive at the weekend to overcome the 7-hour time lag and are given the choice of spending the weekend either in Washington or somewhwere outside it to recover from the long air journey.

The colonel's aim is not to defend Egypt's dignity or that of its president; his principal aim is to falsely "place on record" that the United States has insulted the Egyptian president.

The colonel, who misses no opportunity to insult Egypt, wants, by feigning anger over the insult to Egypt's dignity, to weave this fictitious story to repeat his insults to Egypt by alleging to defend it. He wants us and other people to believe his "wishes" and deal with them as if they were real events and woe betide those who fail to do so.

This is a falsehood intended to create an even worse and more atrocious falsehood. Spare your efforts, Mr Colonel, for Egypt is not in need for your sharp sword to defend its dignity and that of its president, its symbol.

But if the purpose of such trivialities is to show that President Mabarak's visit to the United States not only failed to achieve any success, but also suffered this alleged insult, then you can imagine whatever you wish. You may choose to believe whatever fictitious stories you fancy; this your own business. But it is indeed sad that your illusions and fancies do not reflect upon you alone, but also upon your people, who live under your tyranny and oppression. They also reflect upon much greater issues than these illusions.

With regard to President Mubarak's trip to the United States I can say that it was very successful. In fact President Mubarak himself, who avoids exaggerations and misrepresentations more than anyone else, described his trip as his "most successful visit to the United States since he took office." From the political angle the visit succeeded in calling for a U.S. move to continue peace efforts. The United States promised to continue to pursue this path and listened to the Egyptian view with great attention. It also promised to seek a just peace and confirmed its commitment to the restoration of rights.

From the economic and military aspect, the visit achieved important objectives for Egypt. In addition, there are other ideas and alternatives the United States is considering prior to their approval, the details of which I cannot divulge now, but I can say that they will achieve much for the military and economic interests of Egypt.

President Mubarak then visited Amman to acquaint King Husayn with the outcome of his efforts and meetings and to discuss the next step in the Jordanian-Palestinain-Egyptian move to restore rights. This was followed by the sudden Baghdad summit between Mubarak and Saddam Husayn on the path of Arab solidarity to confront challenges facing the Arab nation.

The Baghdad summit was indeed a surprise to all observers. I can say that it was not included in President Mubarak's plan when he left for Amman to meet King Husayn. His trip to Amman was basically to brief King Husayn on the outcome of his trip and to discuss with him his views on the next Arab move. But the situation on the Iraqi front following the dangerous escalation in the Iraq-Iran war was inevitably one of the major topics in the talks between President Mubarak and Saddam Husayn. The initiative was taken by King Husayn who proposed the trip to Baghdad to meet with President Saddam Husayn and to be reassured about the situation on the Iraqi front. President Mubarak immediately agreed, despite the fact that the two leaders were taking a risk in view of the closure of the airspace over Baghdad and reports of ground-to-ground missiles falling on Baghdad. King Husayn contacted President Saddam Husayn who greatly welcomed this visit. A warm meeting took place in Baghdad between the three leaders; the main topic was the situation on the Iraqi front. President Saddam Husayn accompanied his two guests to where the two missiles fired at Baghdad had fallen. President Mubarak saw that they had little effect and caused only a hole in the ground.

It was certainly Libya that supplied Iran with this type of missiles to strike at Baghdad as a confirmation of the objectives of Arab solidarity and Arab unity Al-Qadhdhafi is seeking!

The outcome of the situation was the realization that the general situation is reassuring and that morale on the Iraqi side is high, which was what the Egyptian and Jordanian leaders wanted to ascertain in their surprise visit to Baghdad.

Was the question of restoring diplomatic relations between Egypt and Iraq discussed at this meeting?

I can confirm tha it was absolutely not brought up by Egypt and that the resumption of relations with any country is of no concern for us as long as Egypt is in continuous contact with all the Arab countries, even those countries which consider themselves hard-liners and extremely hostile to Egypt. I can also confirm that President Mubarak did not, and will not, broach the subject of resuming relations at any meeting between him and the heads of Arab states or their representatives. I can also confirm that Egypt sees no positive interest for the Arab cause by returning to the Arab League in its present state, where two member-states [Libya and Syria] can, as President Saddam Husayn said, suppress the will of 22 member-states as if they were using the right of veto against them.

This was also President Mubarak's view when he received in Paris recently a message from King Hassan of Morocco explaining his view regarding the need to submit the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement to the Arab League Council. President Mubarak said: We have no objection to this. But where is the

Arab summit and what sort of Arab summit is this whose will is suppressed by just two states?

President Mubarak was indeed right in saying that he is happy with the close relations between Egypt and the Arab countries through nondiplomatic channels. These relations are strong and continuing, and would enable Egypt to keep in touch with the Arab views and to express them during its moves for peace, despite the severance of diplomatic relations.

Perhaps Egypt's attitude toward Iraq is the best evidence of the sincerity of Egypt's Arab approach and its deep realization of the dangers of the challenges facing the Arab nation.

This was probably what President Saddam Husayn meant when, during the meeting with Mubarak and Husayn, he referred to Egypt's attitude toward Baghdad, despite the Baghdad resolutions issued in Baghdad itself. He said that despite the resolutions, when Egypt was called upon to help Iraq it responded immediately.

Egypt's attitude toward all the Arab countries is the same when they are facing challenges, despite the Baghdad resolutions or any other resolutions that lose their significance immediately when tested on the touchstone of the deep and historical relations between Egypt and its Arab nation.

Saddam Chairs Lengthy General Command Meeting

JN251829 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, Armed Forces commander in chief, presided over a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command today. The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander of the Armed Forces; the members of the Armed Forces General Command; and the field commanders of the East Tigris operations. At this meeting, which lasted 9 and 1/2 hours, President Saddam Husayn studied with those attending the details of the battles and the lessons learned from the second East Tigris epic, the pinnacle of all battles. During the meeting, the president leader also gave the necessary directives for dealing with all future eventualities and for making the necessary arrangements. On behalf of the Iraqi people, the RCC, and the party command, the president praised the heroic feats performed by the courageous sons of Iraq — commanders, field commanders, and fighters — and their excellent performance in this battle.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Communique No 1,784

JN251759 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,784 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

As long as the Iranian rulers insist on prolonging the aggression against our land and cities, which is inspired by their sick minds, let them receive Iraq's painful blows that our valiant Armed Forces are dealing to them on land, at sea, and in the air. The more they apply themselves to their disgraceful crimes, the more they will receive destructive Iraqi blows at any time and wherever we want.

The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. In retaliation for the Iranian regime's crime of striking Baghdad and other cities, our Air Force carried out fierce raids against selected targets in Tehran and Kashan at 0415 [0115 GMT] today.

Our Air Force also carried out other raids against selected targets in Esfahan, Tabriz, and Hamadan at 1300 today. After fiercely hitting all their targets, our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God. Thus, the number of cities struck since dawn today has reached five cities.

2. With superior capability, our gigantic Air Force planes continued their famous raids agaisnt enemy remnants and military hardware in the East Tigris operational sector, inflicting on the enemy the heaviest losses in life and equipment. Our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God, after accomplishing 65 combat missions.

3. With resolute air raids, our helicopter gunships continued to attack enemy units in the East Tigris operational sector, inflicting on the enemy heavy losses in life and equipment, and destroying 10 enemy boats and 4 infantry positions. All our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our helicopter gunships carried out 34 air sorties today.

4. To destroy the remaining units and military hardware of the retreating enemy, formations of our forward units dealt concentrated strikes with artillery, mortar, and tanks against selected targets in the East Tigris operational sector, killing or wounding many enemy troops; destroying two enemy boats, one missile launcher, and two infantry positions, and setting two hardware stockpiles on fire.

5. Our forward units in the northern sector of the battlefield sighted an enemy patrol, estimated at 20 troops. Our units opened artillery and tank fire on the patrol, killing or wounding all the members of the patrol. In another area of the same sector, one of our units destroyed an enemy observation post and an infantry position, killing their occupants.

6. Two infantry positions and one vehicle were destroyed and two enemy troops were killed in the Central sector of the battlefield.

7. Two enemy observation posts and one machinegun position were destroyed and three enemy troops were killed in the East Basra operational sector.

8. The criminal enemy shelled Mandali and Khurmal environs with heavy artillery.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 March 1985

Downing of Planes Denied

JN251712 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1706 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — This evening, Iraq denied Iranian claims of downing three Iraqi planes over Khark Island. In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said that all the Iraqi planes which carried out the mission returned safely to base. The spokesman added that the Iranian claims are baseless and that they should prove what they have announced with tangible facts. IRNA claimed that three Iraqi planes were shot down during their raid on Khark Island by air defense weapons.

2 Maritime Targets Hit

JN260606 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0538 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In implementation of our measures to impose a siege on Khark Island, in order to prevent the Iranian regime from exploiting its oil resources for aggression against our people and territory, and

in confirmation of Iraq's right and ability, the valiant sky hawks raided two large maritime targets near Khark Island at 0100 after midnight [2200 GMT 25 Mar] yesterday. After hitting the two targets accurately and effectively, they returned safely with their aircraft, protected by God.

[Dated] 26 March 1985

Tehran, Kermanshah, Hamadan Raided

JN260608 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0544 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

In reply to the Iranian regime's crimes against our people and cities and in view of this regime's insistence on war and aggression, our Air Force carried out a series of raids against selected targets in Tehran, Kermanshah, and Hamadan at 0100 after midnight [2200 GMT 25 Mar] yesterday. After carrying out their duty accurately, the sky hawks and their aircraft returned safe and triumphant under God's protection. This is new proof we give to the Tehran rulers indicating that the whispers of Zionism and the aid of their Arab allies will not benefit them and that the only way out of their crisis is to establish an overall peace with Iraq. Success comes from God.

[Dated] 26 March 1985

Iranian Forces Listed

JN261036 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Subsequent to the Armed Forces General Command's Communique No 1,775, issued on 18 March 1985, we announce to the great Iraqi people that in light of the Armed Forces General Command meeting chaired by Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, yesterday, Monday 25 March 1985, and in light of the definite, documented information presented at the meeting about the size of the enemy forces which the criminal Iranian regime used in its abortive attempt to commit aggression on our beloved country, and in light of the details of the battle and the enemy's defeated forces that appeared before our valiant forces, and in light of the investigation into the identity of the dead and the interrogation of the prisoners of war, it has been revealed that the following enemy forces participated in the abortive Khomeyniite aggression on our country:

I. The Khomeyni guard divisions:

1. The 5th Guard Division.
2. The 7th Guard Division.
3. The 14th Guard Division.
4. The 25th Guard Division.
5. The 31st Guard Division.
6. The 41st Guard Division.

II. The incorporated [al-mutajahfilah] guard brigades:

1. A brigade from the 27th Division.
2. A brigade from the 3d Division.
3. A brigade from the 19th Division.
4. The 57th Brigade.
5. The Borujerd Brigade.
6. A brigade from the 8th Division.
7. The Esfahan Brigade.
8. The (Yasd) Brigade.
9. The mixed 155th Brigade.
10. The mixed 501st Brigade.
11. Three independent brigades.

Thus the total number of the guard forces amounts to 13 brigades, an equivalent of 4 divisions plus 1 brigade, which means that the total number of the guard forces amounts to 10 divisions plus 1 brigade.

III. The regular forces:

The criminal Khomeyniite regime threw the following regular forces into the crematorium of death:

1. The 55th Paratroop Brigade.
2. The 1st Brigade of the 23d Division, special forces.
3. The 1st Infantry Brigade of the 28th Division.
4. The 3d Infantry Brigade of the 28th Division.
5. The 2d Infantry Brigade of the 21st Division.
6. The independent coastal force.

Thus the total number of the regular forces amounts to 2 divisions, and thus the forces which crossed the marshes to the pocket of destruction amount to 12 divisions plus 1 brigade. These were the forces that were wiped out during the 7-day battle.

IV. The enemy prepared the 77th and 92d Divisions and a brigade from the 21st Division in the assault area in order to back up its defeated forces. However, they failed to cross [the marshes] due to the quick and effective measures taken to contain the momentum of the enemy offensive, check it, and destroy it with maximum speed. These forces, in addition to other forces behind the marshes, participated in supporting the enemy's crossing remnants and got its share of Iraq's violent missile, artillery, and aerial strikes.

Thus, the total number of the forces the enemy threw in to commit aggression on your territory, O Iraqis, amounts to 15 divisions minus 1 brigade. We confirm these facts to you, O proud Iraqis, in order for you to know the size of the victory scored by your righteous sons in the immortal epic east of the Tigris and to know the size of the catastrophe inflicted on your enemy as a result of its recklessness and vanity. Most of these forces have been completely wiped out by our valiant Armed Forces. May God bless the brave men, commanders, field commanders, offi-

cers, and soldiers. Move ahead toward fresh victories by which we eradicate the enemy of God, as well as our enemy. We will move on from one victory to another under the banner of our leader and inspirer President Saddam Husayn. Help and success come from God.

[Dated] 26 March 1985

'Destructive' Strikes, 'Crushing War' Threatened

JN260918 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0648 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Mar (INA) — Two local newspapers have affirmed that Iraq is militarily and morally superior and that the balances of power were and still are in Iraq's favor despite all forms of military and nonmilitary aid that the Iranian rulers received and are still receiving from their Zionist and Arab allies.

Under the headline "We Defy Them," *AL-THAWRAH* says that the entire international community knows and fully understands why Iraq is fighting and why the Iranian rulers insist on continuing the war. Iraq has no ambitions, interests, or expansionist aims in Iran, but fights in defense of its national independence, sovereignty, dignity, people's security, and revolution's accomplishments.

The newspaper adds: We know very well that the Iranian rulers are impotent and defeated. They are trying to distract their people's attention from the terrible military catastrophe that was inflicted on them in the Hawr al-Hawizah battles in order to deal with the psychological and moral collapse of their defeated forces.

The newspaper asserts that Iraq can shake the earth under the Iranian rulers' feet, make them alone pay a very high price for their crimes, destroy their houses over their heads, and select targets inside Iran everywhere and at any time.

Concluding, the newspaper says: We will continue to defy them and pound their heads and targets on land and at sea and deep inside Iran. As for the weapons that were supplied to them by the servants of Zionism and Arab Mossad agents, we will reply to them with strikes that will have a destructive impact on them and on their allies and masters.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Iraq will not permit the Iranian rulers to further prolong the war without making them pay its price with their own flesh before they pay it with Iran's security and stability and with the peace of its people. The newspapper adds: We will extend the battlefront until it reaches every inch of their territory and we will make every stone in Iran groan under our heavy blows. It stresses that Iraq will continue this course until the Iranian rulers announce their submission to the logic of right and justice.

Concluding, the newspaper says: After much patience Iraq has decided that there will be either comprehensive and crushing war or a just and comprehensive peace for both us and them. Henceforth, they will have to choose only one of these two options.

Industry Minister Talks With Poland's Gorywoda

JN251436 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — Iraqi Light Industries Minister Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah met here today with Manfred Gorywoda, deputy chairman of the Polish Council of Ministers and chairman of the Planning Committee, who is currently visiting Iraq at the head of a delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed cooperation in the economic and technical fields and ways of promoting them in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

Irrigation Minister Confers With Polish Official

JN252002 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Irrigation Minister 'Abd al-Wahhab Mahmud met with Ryszard Buchowiecki, Polish under secretary of state of the Ministry of Mining and Energy, and his delegation today.

During the meeting they discussed cooperation in irrigation and land reform. The Polish ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

King Husayn Discusses PLO Accord, Spanish Ties
JN252124 Amman Television Service in English
2000 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Coinciding with his majesty the king's visit to Spain, Spanish television telecast an interview with his majesty in which he spoke about Jordan's endeavors to establish peace in the Middle East in accordance with United Nation's resolutions. The king referred to the February 11th accord between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization and said it forms a basis for a just settlement. He said the accord was a constructive bid and could be the last chance for peace. King Husayn said Spain, together with other European nations, has a great role to resolve the Middle East crisis, and expressed hope that his current visit will help further promote Jordanian-Spanish relations.

[Begin recording][Unidentified interviewer] Your Majesty, could you explain to us the basis of your peace initiative for the Middle East?

[King Husayn] The basis is the feeling of our duty towards our brethren in the occupied territories and our genuine, unflinching desire to see the establishment of a just, durable peace in the area. This has been the case over the many years that have passed, and it is felt that the chance exists now as a result of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, the agreement between the Government of Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, to answer the world as to what the Arab position is. And obvously, what we have achieved is an agreement where we indicate our desire to seek a peaceful solution to the problem and to implement the principle of international law and the principle contained in the charter of the United Nations, the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war, which was the preamble of the Security Council Resolution 242. In other words, the return of the territories occupied in June of 1967 for the establishment of peace.

[Interviewer] What are the main differences between your initiative and Mubarak's plan?

[Husayn] There are no differences. I believe there may have been different interpretations. President Mubarak and Egypt, I believe, are fully supportive of the agreement reached between us and the Palestinians. After all, the Palestinians are the people most directly involved. But to a lesser degree, and in much the same way, we here in Jordan, are closer to the Palestinian family than any in the Arab world, and we hope that the position of all our brethren in the Arab world will be one of support, or the majority certainly.

[Interviewer] Would you think that the step taken by Yasir 'Arafat in signing the agreement with Jordan, I think you consider it as a historical, significant step to solve the Middle East conflict?

[Husayn] I believe it is a very very positive step and I would like to point out that this may be — in point of fact I do not want to be dubious about that — this is the last chance. Conditions on the ground have changed so dramatically over the last years that unless this chance is taken, then there is no hope. The area will deteriorate towards fresh disasters that may not overcome only the people immediately concerned in the conflict, but maybe world peace as such. The Palestinian attitude has been a very positive one, a very responsible one; and I believe it reflects the fact that the PLO is in fact representing the overwhelming majority of the Palestinians, in particular in the occupied territories, and they are pressing their their needs, their demands, very admirably, for freedom and for peace as well.

[Interviewer] Does the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement include Yasir 'Arafat's acceptance of Resolution 242?

[Husayn] It is clear in its acceptance of Security Council resolutions pertinent to the problem and I believe that there are only three, in addition to UN resolutions, but the binding ones are the Security Council resolutions as you know, and those are:242, and 338, and the resolution adopted against the unilateral annexation by Israel of the Arab city of Jerusalem.

[Interviewer] What do you think about the United States'rejection of all Arab initiatives for peace?

[Husayn] We hope that the continuous dialogue of Arab leaders with the United States will give us the final answer as to what the United States' position is. But as we understand it now it has not really formulated a position as yet. What we are suggesting is that a PLO-Jordanian delegation commence a dialogue to explore the possibilities of progress at this point in time with the Government of the United States, and we hope that this will happen.

[Interviewer] Your recent trip to Baghdad has to be understood on one side as within the context of a peace intitiative, but on the other side as a way of showing your open support to Saddam Husayn's policy. Is this true?

[Husayn] There was a great battle that was raging, and at the same time we believe that Iraq has been standing throughout, defending the Arab homeland beyond Iraq itself . Iraq has indicated time and again its desire for a cessastion of this war, for a peaceful solution to the problem, for relations to be based between it and Iran and between Iran and its other neighbors on the principle of mutual respect and noninterference in the affairs of each other. But at this critical moment in time, I had the privilege to have had the chance to go to Baghdad together with President Husni Mubarak, who accepted the idea on his visit here and to reassure the Iraqi Government and people of our support and understanding.

[Interviewer] Which role Europe and in particular Spain could play in finding a solution for the Middle East crisis?

[Husayn] A great role that we are happy is being played and we hope will continue to be so and will evolve to indicate the will of the world community for a just lasting peace in this area.

[Interviewer] What is the best way to improve the commercial and political relations between your country and Spain?

[Husayn] I believe that much has happened but it is only a beginning. Our [words indistinct] and we are certainly anxious as a government and as a people to see the relations develop in many

fields and in many areas and we believe that the horizons are limitless in that regard. So I hope that our visit to Spain might be one step in further encouraging the growth of these relations which we are very proud of.

[Interviewer] Thank you very much. [end recording]

King Husayn Visits Spain, Meets Juan Carlos

For Amman and Madrid coverage of the visit to Spain by His Majesty King Husayn,including his meetings with Spanish King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, see the Spain section of the 26 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Egyptian Minister Arrives To Discuss Sea Route

JN251534 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Amman, 25 Mar (PETRA) — Sulayman Mutawalli Sulayman, Egyptian minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, arrived in Amman today leading a delegation on a visit to Jordan of several days. In a statement to PETRA, the minister said that his visit to Jordan is aimed at following up discussions concerning the establishment of a sea route connecting Jordan and Egypt. He said that this route, which will be put into operation in the last third of next month, will be inauguarated by His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

The Egyptian minister pointed out that the studies concerning this route were completed after an Egyptian delegation visited Jordan and held talks with Transport Ministry officials on research and agreements on operating this route. He said that the agreement that was signed stipulated operating a bus line and a maritime transport line. He said that his visit comes in response to an invitation from Jordanian Transport Minister Farhi 'Ubayd to review the agreements concerned and approve them in their final form. The minister said that this vital line will be opened on the anniversary of the Sinai liberation and the restoration of Egyptian sovereignty over the Israeli-occupied territory.

Transport Minister Farhi 'Ubayd, who received the Egyptian minister, expressed his happiness with the Egyptian minister's visit, pointing out that consultations have gone a long way concerning the implementation of the project. He said that these consultations will be completed within the next 2 days and that a joint statement wil be issued governing the rules of transportation on this line, which will connect Jordan and the Arab east with Egypt, the Arab Maghreb, and Africa, thus implementing the strategic aim that His Majesty King Husayn and President Husni Mubarak had defined from political, economic, and tourist considerations and serving Arabs everywhere. The minister said that the inauguration of the line will be preceded by a meeting chaired by Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat.

Tahir Hikmat Receives USSR Writers Delegation

JN252000 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Amman, 25 Mar (PETRA) — Tahir Hikmat, minister of culture, tourism, and antiquities and acting information minister, today received a Soviet delegation led by (Suleymenov), secretary of the USSR Union of Writers at the Presidium of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries [title as received]. During the meeting they discussed bilateral cultural relations and ways of bolstering them, as well as Soviet-Jordanian relations in general.

Briefs

Ambassador to Cuba — Amman, 25 Mar (PETRA) — A royal decree has been issued approving the Council of Ministers' decision to appoint 'Abdallah Salah, Jordan's UN permanent representative, as Jordan's ambassador extraordinaire and nonresident plenipotentiary to the Republic of Cuba. [Text][*Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 25 Mar 85 JN*]

Kidnappings of Foreign Officials Detailed

French, Italian Citizens Threatened

NC251625 Paris AFP in English 1610 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Beirut, March 25 (AFP) -- The latest kidnapping of a French diplomat in Lebanon has been claimed by the "Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Factions" (LRAF).

Gilles Sidney Peyrolles, aged 32, director of the French Cultural Center and a consular official in Tripoli, was reported missing late yesterday after failing to return to his residence in the northern Lebanese city.

In a communique, LRAF said that Mr Peyrolles would be freed in exchange for "the immediate liberation of our comrade arrested in France, 'Abd al-Qadir al-Sa'di."

The communique also called for the freeing of two other "comrades" held in Italy, 'Abdallah Mansuri and Josephine Abdu.

"We reject any responsibility for the security of the French diplomat 48 hours after the publication of this communique," the statement said. "The French authorities will be responsible for any action that affects Mr Peyrolles or any Frenchman in France or abroad."

Every French and Italian person could be considered "one of our targets," the communique said.

Mr Peyrolles' disappearance followed the abduction of three French diplomats in Beirut last Friday.

British Journalist Abducted

NC251813 Paris AFP in English 1743 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Vienna, March 25 (AFP) -- A British journalist employed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Middle East (UNRWA) was kidnapped today near Beirut, UNRWA headquarters announced here.

The statement said that the journalist, Alec Collett, aged 63, the chief of United Nations news bureaus in Africa, was abducted as he was riding in an UNRWA bus en route from Tyre to the Lebanese capital. The bus was stopped at Khaldah, south of Beirut, by unknown men who forced Mr Collett to leave the bus. The driver, an Austrian, was allowed to continue the journey.

In Beirut earlier, the latest kidnapping of a French diplomat in Lebanon was claimed by the "Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Factions" (LRAF).

Birri Denounces Kidnappings

NC251333 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Nabih Birri, minister of state for southern Lebanon and reconstruction affairs, has reaffirmed the stand he declared last Saturday on the question of kidnapping diplomats in West Beirut. He said such acts do not serve the interests of the south at all.

Birri stressed the need to confront the plan which aims at forcing the foreign embassies and establishments to leave West Beirut.

Minister Birri met today with (Marc Boufod), director of the French External Relations Office for African and Middle East Affairs, who was accompanied by French Charge d'Affaires (Marcel Le Jaile). They discussed the recent kidnappings of French diplomats and nationals. The French delegation expressed its understanding of Minister Birri's view. The minister explained the stands of all forces on the Lebanese arena.

Sha'ban Seeks Kidnappers

NC251446 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Unidentified gunmen have kidnapped Gilles Sidney Peyrolles, director of the French Cultural Center in Tripoli, and have taken him to an unknown location. We have no further details on the incident.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, said: We must find out who the kidnappers are before we can determine the purpose of their operation. We hope everyone will stop all acts of kidnapping, particularly those involving foreigners. Kidnapping is illegal, unless the kidnapped person has been accused of a crime. We don't know anything about the director of the French Cultural Center. We believe that those who did this are the same people who have planted and detonated bombs. We will conduct a serious search for the perpetrators.

PSP Opposes Kidnappings

NC251515 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpt] A responsible source in the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has stated the following: The PSP expresses its extreme concern over the campaign of kidnapping and detention to which some officials of foreign embassies and correspondents of western newspapers are being subjected in Beirut. The PSP sincerely believes that this method cannot be the correct one for presenting our just cause to the world, for the following reasons:

1. Regardless of the stands of some western governments toward the Lebanese issue in general and the national cause against hegemony and occupation in particular, the stands of those being subjected to harassment are not necessarily the same as the stands of their governments and newspapers.

2. All quarters must show full respect for the immunity which diplomats and correspondents enjoy. Lack of respect for, or nonprotection of, this immunity gives a wrong impression of the behavior of some forces, and consequently leads us to losing our friends without affecting the stands of our foes.

3. This behavior, which has increased in gravity in recent days, will ultimately lead to the national area in Beirut being

emptied of all these officials, who during the worst circumstances are witnesses for us and not witnesses against us. The only beneficiaries from the exodus of diplomatic corps officials and foreign correspondents from our areas will be the Phalange Party, the Lebanese Forces, and Israel.

4. We are bearers of a just national cause. We call for the formation of a democratic system embracing all the Lebanese. Our credibility often depends more on our behavior toward foes and neutrals rather than towards friends and supporters. There is no real meaning in talking about and calling for democracy while our behavior is inconsistent with the simplest rules of democracy and public freedom.

Birri Objects to Relocating French Embassy

NC260815 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Excerpt] It has been learned that the task of French envoy (Marc Boncousse) is not confined only to ascertaining the fate of kidnapped French diplomats. His task also includes exploring the feasibility of transferring the French Embassy's offices from West to East Beirut to provide better protection to French diplomats.

The French envoy discussed this with Amal movement leader, Minister Nabih Birri, and suggested withdrawing the French contingent operating in the south. Nabih Birri objected to these proposals.

Israel Reportedly Asks for Return to Al-Naqurah Talks

LD251216 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1146 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Beirut, 25 Mar (KUNA) — Sources at the Foreign Ministry here have stated that Israel has informed Lebanon of its readiness to return to the military negotiations at Ras al-Naqurah on two bases — application of the international resolutions, and keeping the local militia loyal to Lebanon away from any security role in the south. The sources told KUNA today that a military official from the international emergency forces, operating in the south under the United Nation's banner, transmitted the Israeli offer to Lebanese officials on the basis that Israel agrees to the application of Resolution 425 issued by the Security Council together with refusing a security role in the south to the so-called Army of Lebanon.

The sources have quoted the international military official as having said Israel wants the military negotiations at Ras al-Naqurah as a cover for its withdrawal from the south because it no longer has confidence in the Lebanese Army which has proven that it "is unable to stand fast" in the face of the strikes of the Lebanese patriotic resistance.

The sources cast doubt on the credibility of the Israeli offer and say they consider the Lebanese patriotic resistance to be the only group which has proven its effectiveness against Israeli forces in the south.

Syria Urges 'Swift' End to Christian Split

NC251311 Paris AFP in English 1304 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 25 (AFP) – Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has insisted that Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil end the split in the Lebanese Christian community as rapidly as possible, and has refused to negotiate with the insurgents under any circumstances, sources close to the government said today.

In a meeting Saturday in Damascus, President al-Jumayyil was assured of Syrian support, but was also pressed for swift action to heal the split in Christian ranks, which endangered the Beirut coalition government, the sources quoted President al-Asad as saying.

AL-SAFIR Reports Formation of New Movement

NC261010 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 25 Mar 85 p 5

[Excerpts] Nasib al-Khatib held a news conference yesterday during which he declared the formation of the Partisans Movement [Harakat al-Ansar]. The movement's command council has been formed as follows:

Command Council Secretary General
Nasib al-Khatib

Members of the Council
Shaykh Mahmud Isma'il
Bassam Matraji
'Abd al-Rahman Yamwat
Lutfi Murad
'Adil al-Hajjar
'Adnan 'Antar
Muhammad Sadiq
Ahmad Murad, and
'Isam 'Antar

The movement's statement, read by Al-Khatib notes that "the treasonous partition step in Beirut's eastern sector under the pretext of an uprising aims at serving Israel and at aborting the brilliant victories of the resistance and its successive blows to the remnants of the Israeli Army; the attempt to set up an elected Christian council in the eastern sector; the election of an executive committee; and the development of the Lebanese Forces all constitute a clear-cut declaration of a Maronite statelet which only lacks international recognition."

The statement affirms that "the movement's objectives aim at achieving Lebanon's unity, Arabism and independence, social justice, abrogating sectarianism, and safeguarding public freedoms."

Military Council Makes Changes, Appointments

NC260806 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Military sources have indicated that at its meeting yesterday the Military Council made a series of decisions to strengthen

the march toward relaxation and security in the capital, as well as in the various army-controlled areas.

The council decided to cancel all the combat lines and to take steps necessary to revive the capital's central zone, to erect roadblocks in this area under the command of Beirut's military personnel, to demilitarize this zone, and to complete the removal of both old and newly constructed ramparts and roadblocks.

The Military Council also made certain appointments involving a number of military personnel. The council appointed Brigadier General Hani 'Abbas to be commander of the southern military zone, replacing Staff Brigadier General 'Abd al-Ra'uf Kanj; Colonel Muhammad Sa'd was appointed 12th Brigade commander, replacing Colonel Hasan Tut; and Lieutenant Colonel Butrus Farah will be the assistan' to the southern commander for operations, replacing Colonel Charle 'Id.

The Military Council issued clear-cut orders to the new command in the south to carry out fully its powers, to prevent any armed manifestations, and to ensure all coastal lines to Sidon.

ANSA Interviews Christian Forces Leader

AU251853 Rome ANSA in English 1530 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] (ANSA) Rome, March 25 — In an interview to *IL GIORNALE* of Milan, Karim Paqraduni, leader of the Lebanese Christian Forces Movement, outlined the aims of his group with regard to Lebanon's President Amin al-Jumayyil and Syria, which has shown its firm disapproval of the Christian militia revolt against Al-Jumayyil beginning March 12.

Paqraduni said that before the revolt began, not only the Lebanese Government but the governments of the entire world were resigned to the idea that Lebanon must become a protectorate.

"I, on the other hand, am for unlimited cooperation with Damascus, but I am against a protectorate", he said.

Paqraduni went on to say that the Christian rebels are convinced that a better Lebanese policy would be that of cooperating with neighboring states without losing the nation's sovereignty.

After annuling the March 17 accord with Israel, the Lebanese Government wasted its time with trifling tactics of only domestic concern. No political strategy was developed with the result that Syria, as was to be predicted, became more demanding and showed more clout, Paqraduni said.

Referred to by the Milan daily as the head of the revolt against Al-Jumayyil, Paqraduni said that a firm policy was necessary. One could work with Syria without being under Damascus' thumb, he said.

He then listed the objectives of his movement:

— First, to reorganize Lebanese Forces, creating a collegial council that would be above the commander.

— Secondly, a restructurization of the Phalangist (al-kata'ib) Party. He said there was a panel of three members, of which he was one, which was negotiating with the party at this time.

— Thirdly, the creation of a national Christian Council which would represent all of the Christian factions, including the Greek-Orthodox, protestant, and Armenian minorities. This council would decide the political line of the Christian community alone and not that of others, he said.

In other words, Lebanese Forces must no longer be the militia of a party, but a defense organization of all Christians under orders from the National Council. Christian unity is necessary if there is to be Lebanese unity, Paqraduni concluded.

Lebanese Forces Committee Adopts Security Plan

?IC251713 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The Lebanese Forces Executive Committee held one of its periodic meetings today. It studied the questions of freedom, security, and living conditions. As for the question of freedom and security, the committee emphasized that Lebanon's raison d'etre in the east is the fact that it is the homeland of liberty.

The Lebanese Forces Executive Committee considered this question for some time. It discussed the best way to guarantee individual and collective freedoms. From the premise of its commitment to guard Christian security, out of respect for public and private freedoms, and for the citizens public and private rights as stipulated in the World Declaration of Human Rights and in Lebanon's laws and constitution; out of its desire to prevent any repetition of the assaults and attacks to which our people have been subjected over the past few months; out of its insistence on returning life in the liberated areas to normal — on both the individual and the institutional level — and as far as public and private utilities are concerned; and as a declaration of the need to preserve legitimate institutions to safeguard Lebanon's unity and sovereignty as the way for a new, sound agreement among the Lebanese, the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee has decided to call on the internal security and police forces, and on the judiciary, to exercise their powers and to consider themselves the appropriate arbiters of disputes among citizens. On the basis of this decision, we order all our fighters to respect the law and the legitimate authorities. In the meantime, we call on the security forces, the police, and the judiciary to rise to the level demanded by their delicate duties to guarantee a just, honest, and unbiased form of security.

The Executive Committee has adopted the following measures to implement this decision:

1. It has prepared an executive program, the purpose of which is to hand over responsibility for internal security and judicial activity to the legitimate authorities. It will do so practically, and not in the bogus way some other factions have promised. This will happen if the handover of power takes place gradually, and in an organized way.

2. Until this program is implemented, a support unit will help the internal security forces discharge their responsibilities and perform their tasks.

3. As a first step, the committee has decided to close the police station in Mar Mikha'il [in East Beirut]. That post was occupied by Dib Anastas. It has decided to invite the station's original owner, the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry, to take over that center immediately.

Phalangist Official Reaffirms Uprising's Goals

NC251858 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] According to Etian Saqr, alias Abu Arz, [member of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee and head of the Public Relations Office], the uprising was a result of repression, restlessness, and despair at all levels. He claimed that the uprising does not want to hurt the Phalange Party; rather, it wants that party to remain a pioneer of liberty. He added: The uprising would like the Lebanese Forces to regain their freedom and to do away with financial and political domination.

Saqr said: We are neither sectarian nor partitionist. We believe in Bashir al-Jumayyil's slogan: "10,452 square km." [Lebanon's area] He noted that the uprising does not want to take responsibility for decisions away from any one dominating group just to give it to another. It has been said that the uprising is against President Amin al-Jumayyil. We don't oppose the president or the Presidency. The uprising seeks to support him, and his latest statement is cogent proof of this.

It has also been alleged that Israel is behind the uprising. Everyone knows that the uprising took place at a time when Israel was preparing for the second phase of its withdrawal. Some say the uprising is against Syria. Actually, the goal of the uprising is to put Lebanon's house in order; Syria has nothing to do with it.

Phalangist Political Bureau, Central Council Meet

NC251930 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The Phalange Party's Political Bureau and Central Council held their joint weekly meeting today. Dr Elie Karamah chaired the meeting, which was attended by all members. The discussions centered on recent developments in the security and political fields.

Dr Karamah opened the meeting by saying: We are still passing through a critical time for the Phalange Party. We are preparing for a general congress, the date of which will be fixed later, to begin a dialogue with our opponents. He added: The party's relationship with the Republic's Presidency is a firm principle of the Phalangist struggle. However, this does not mean that the party's decisions on any subject are anything less than independent.

President al-Asad Issues Amnesty Law No 6

JN251201 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has issued Amnesty Law No 6 for 1985 which was endorsed by the People's Assembly on 23 March 1985.

Libya's Staff Major Jallud Visits Damascus

Received by Al-Asad

LD211806 Tripoli JANA in English 1525 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, Jumada Thani 28, March 21, Jamahiriya News Agency — The Syrian president Hafiz al-Asad received mid-day today Staff Major 'Abd al-Salim Ahmad Jallud in the presence of 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Meets Khaddam, PLO Officials

LD241002 Tripoli JANA in English 0845 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, Rajab 2, March 24, Jamahiriyah News Agency — Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud yesterday afternoon held his second meeting in a day with vice president of the Arab Republic of Syria, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Staff major also met with the head of the Palestinian National Council Khalid Al-Fahum, the PLO spokesman, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, and members of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement Fatah, the Joint Command, Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha],Jibarah 'Abd al-Hatif, Abu Khalid al-'Amlah and Qadri [Samih Abu Quwayk].

Meets Habash, Ghushah, Jibril

LD250940 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0215 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud continued his meetings with various leaders of the Palestinian resistance in Damascus.

Yesterday morning he met with George Habash, PFLP secretary general; Isam al-Qadi, Al-Sa'iqah secretary general; and Samir Ghushah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front.

Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud earlier met with Brother Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-General Command.

Talas Receives PDRY Military Delegation

JN252050 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received Brigadier General Salih Muslih Qasim, PDRY minister of defense, and his military delegation in his office this evening. The meeting was attended by Hasan Turkmani, deputy chief of staff of the Army and Armed Forces; Major General Subhi Haddad, commander of the Air Forces and air defense, and 'Abduh 'Ali 'Abd al-Rahman, the PDRY ambassador in Damascus.

The talks revolved around the current situation in the Arab region and the overall relations of common interest to the two fraternal countries.

Polish Parliamentarians Arrive in Damascus

JN251211 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — Polish Sejm Marshal Stanislaw Gucwa arrived in Damascus today heading a parliamentary delegation on an official and cordial 1-week visit to Syria at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent, Gucwa said: We are glad to visit Syria which is currenly celebrating the 22d anniversary of the March revolution and the reelection of President Hafiz al-Asad for a new term. He asserted that the Polish people, party, and Government highly praise and respect struggler Comrade Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian people.

Talks With Speaker al-Zu'bi

JN251920 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] At 1630 today, talks were held between the People's Assembly delegation under Mahmud al-Zu'bi, People's Assembly speaker, and the Polish parliamentary delegation under Stanislaw Gucwa, president of the Polish Parliament. The Polish ambassador in Damascus also attended the talks.

The talks dealt with parliamentary relations between the two friendly countries, the situation in the Middle East, and the international situation.

Gucwa affirmed the Polish people's interest in and appreciation for the struggle that the Syrian people are waging and for the courageous and wise policy Syria is pursuing under President Hafiz al-Asad. He said: Despite the difficult circumstances Syria is undergoing from its confrontation with the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and its assumption of the responsibility for defending the entire Arab nation, the process of construction and development in Syria has not stopped but is continuously growing. He added that this affirms the activity of the Syrian people and the capability of its political leadership.

Stanislaw Gucwa praised Syria's continuous and persistent endeavors aimed at restoring Lebanon's freedom and accord. He denounced the savage acts that the Israeli invasion forces are committing in southern Lebanon.

Mahmud al-Zu'bi explained the situation in the Arab region and the burden Syria is shouldering under President Hafiz al-Asad in defense of the Arab nation and in confronting the plans and conspiracies that aim at destroying the Arab liberation movement and achieving U.S. hegemony and Zionist expansion at the expense of Arab land.

The talks also dealt with the two countries' accomplishments on all levels and bilateral and international parliamentary issues. The two sides stressed the importance of bolstering the progressive, liberationist, and socialist line against imperialism, Zionism, and their allies. They also stressed the need for coordination among parliamentarians at the international conferences in the service of the two countries and the issues of liberation and progress in the world. The Syrian and Polish viewpoints were in agreement on all the issues that were reviewed.

USSR Foreign Trade Ministry Official Arrives

JN252046 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 25 Mar (SANA) — Ivan Grishin, deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Trade, arrived here today on a visit to Syria during which he will hold trade talks and will sign a long-term trade agreement for a period of 5 years between the two friendly countries.

TISHRIN Views Palestinian National Salvation Front

JN260927 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 26 Mar (SANA) — The newspaper *TISHRIN*, which was published here today, has stressed that the objective of forming the Palestinian National Salvation Front is to topple the deviationist course, foil the relinquishment of our Palestinian people, and to safeguard the PLO's nationlist line that is hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and the liquidatory solutions.

The paper says: It is not strange that this front has been formed at this particular time. This is because Yasir 'Arafat, who has sold the Palestinians through his illegitimate council in Amman, condeded the representation of the deviationist clique he represents to Jordan's king, and who has agreed to enter direct negotiations with the Zionist enemy through the Palestinian-Jordanian joint delegation, has also agreed, along with the renegade Arab regimes, on the Israeli-U.S. conditions to reach a solution to the Palestine question.

The paper adds: In light of the threats to the cause of our people and nation, the formation of a Palestinian national front was necessary to confront this deviationist course by all means, and to topple so that the PLO can play its complete role in leading the Palestinian national action.

The paper continues: The announcement of the formation of this front from Damascus has very significant national and pan-Arab considerations on the international level; this is especially true since Syria's Hafiz al-Asad has been protecting the Palestinian revolution since its outbreak, provided it with all the means of support and continuation, and has offered great human, economic, and military sacrifices for its sake. Moreover, Syria is still determined to confront all attempts to liquidate the Palestinian revolution, and to foil all the capitulatory and defeatist plans.

Concluding, *TISHRIN* says: Syria, which is committed to its pan-Arab principles to defend the nation's causes and the Arabs' dignity and rights, will continue to adhere to these principles, to confront all the attempts to encroach on our rights, and to foil the wagers of the defeatists and deviationists.

Rabin Says Syria Main Threat to Nation

TA251108 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 Mar 85 pp 1, 11

[Report by military correspondent Yosef Walter]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said last night that Israel faces two threats: the threat to our existence posed by the Arab armies and the threat of terrorism. Syria poses the main threat to our existence, and in light of its intentions, a possible confrontation with the Syrian Army should be taken into account. Minister Rabin made these remarks to members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the Knesset Finance Committee.

Rabin said that the cut in the defense budget would result in the dismissal of thousands of career soldiers and workers in the defense establishment.

On the issue of terrorism, Rabin said it did not pose a threat to Israel's existence, but did disrupt normal daily life. He remarked that we have to reduce the amount of damage caused by the attacks, and that the way to do this is by reaching an agreement with the countries harboring the terrorists.

Furthermore, the defense minister said that so far no one dealing with the subject has been able to predict when and if a war will break out.

No Objection to Jordanian-Egyptian-U.S. Meeting

TA251112 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 Mar 85 pp 1, 11

[Report by Refa'el Mann and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] The Reagan administration plans to hold a tripartite meeting between the foreign ministers of the United States, Jordan, and Egypt to discuss the possible composition of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to peace talks. According to reports arriving in Jerusalem, this is one of the ideas to be examined in the meeting of U.S. ambassadors to the Middle East which is scheduled to take place in Washington this week. Israel would not object to such a tripartite meeting.

Over the weekend, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy told Israel's ambassador in Washington Me'ir Rosenne that the administration does not rule out a preliminary meeting with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if the latter makes a prior commitment to subsequently hold direct negotiations with Israel. It is assessed in Jerusalem that the United States will agree to meet a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if this may in any way promote the launching of direct negotiations.

Ministerial-Level Talks With Egypt Proposed

TA252016 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Israel has proposed that ministerial-level talks be held with Egypt to resolve all the impending problems between the two countries. Our political correspondent Yoram Ronen reports that the Egyptians have not yet responded to this offer, but have at the same time not rejected it outright.

Regarding the dispute over Tabah, Jerusalem expects the talks to continue, as President Mubarak promised just before his visit to the United States. However, Israel will not agree to allow the negotiations to be confined merely to this issue.

Promise Not To Bomb Iraqi Nuclear Reactors Denied

TA251243 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Israel did not promise France that it would not bomb new nuclear reactors which France might establish in Iraq. Our correspondent learned this from the Prime Minister's Office, in reaction to reports that in exchange for the nuclear reactors Israel is to receive from France, Shim'on Peres had promised not to bomb reactors in Iraq.

Begin Says PLO Must Not Participate in Negotiations

TA251630 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1400 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Menahem Begin says that the PLO must not have any part in negotiations or in any delegation that will negotiate with Israel. He denied that in the past he said that we should not examine too closely the make-up of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation which would negotiate with Israel. Begin made these remarks during a meeting he held with the vice prime minister.

Rabin Foresees Confrontation Following Withdrawal

TA251139 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT
25 Mar 85

[Text] We open this newsreel with remarks made a short time ago by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin regarding our situation in Lebanon. Rabin says that in Lebanon we might face problems that will require further confrontation before we attain calm. He adds: I hope we will not need the confrontation stage. Here are Rabin's remarks:

[Begin Rabin recording] I do not want to create the impression that as soon as we leave Lebanon — and there are those who want us to run away from Lebanon — the problems will be solved. We might face problems that will necessitate a confrontation before we attain calm. I hope we will not need the confrontation stage, I hope that a large segment of the population will understand — if it does not yet understand. If extremist, militant, religious, and hateful Shi'ites, and various kinds of PLO groups try to prove that Israel does not intend to do this, we will prove to them that it does. Then they will prefer to live and let live. Today they already know that as long as the IDF is in Lebanon, it will not agree to be a sitting duck, and that as long as the attacks continue we will take the initiative to reach those villages that serve as bases for attacks. [end recording]

IDF Official Says Good Fence To Remain Open

TA251618 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The commander of the IDF liaison unit for southern Lebanon has promised that even following the IDF's withdrawal to the international border, the good fence crossing will remain open, and Israel will continue to assist the inhabitants of the nearby Lebanese villages.

Our correspondent Hayim Heet reports that Brigadier General Shlomo Ilia today met with 100 mukhtars and heads of villages in the western sector of southern Lebanon. He emphasized to them the importance of the civilian guards in their villages. According to him these groups will fulfill a central role in ensuring the safety of the inhabitants of southern Lebanon.

Rabin Says Ties With Lebanese Druze May Continue

TA251625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The defense minister has said that Israel does not oppose the continuation of relations between Israeli Druze and their Lebanese brethren, and it is not against mutual visits to the Druze holy sites. Minister Rabin was answering a request from Shaykh Amin Tarif, the religious leader of Israel's Druze, during a visit to the village of Julis. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that in answer to another request put forward by Amin Tarif, Rabin said that the IDF and the defense establishment have assisted, and are continuing to assist the As'ad family, whose son, Samir, disappeared approximately 2 years ago in Lebanon.

Herzog 'Sharply' Criticizes CBS Reaction

TA250737 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 25 Mar 85 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] President Hayim Herzog speaking in Qiryat Motzkin yesterday, sharply criticized CBS's decision to cancel a scheduled one-week special broadcast from Israel for its Morning News programme.

Herzog, who spoke to reporters during a morning visit to the bayside city, expressed "complete amazement" at CBS's cancellation in protest at the two deaths. "Their reaction raises serious questions as to their impartial and journalistic standards," he said.

"The American media has lost quite a few correspondents throughout the world, in Vietnam and Central America, but I do not recall them cancelling programmes or issuing official protests to these governments. In any case, I find it very difficult to believe that they think the blood of their correspondents is redder than the blood of the U.S. Marines who were killed by the people the Israel Defence Forces are fighting at this time in Lebanon."

The president said he could not recall any similar form of protest when the 250 marines were killed in Lebanon. He added that every journalist was aware of the potential dangers he faced in going into a war zone to cover a story.

Three Settlements Slated For Lebanese Border

TA260728 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv — The heads of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization [WZO] Settlement Departments are planning to establish three more settlements near the Lebanese border and to invest millions of dollars in improving the economic infrastructure of existing villages there. However, plans to establish four more settlements in the West Bank by September will probably be severely curtailed.

In an interview with *THE JERUSALEM POST* yesterday, Nisim Zvili, co-chairman of the Jewish Agency and WZO Settlement Departments, said officials are considering establishing three moshavim on the northern border. They are to be populated by sons of residents of veteran moshavim in the area.

The plans envisage one settlement for religious people near 'Alma and Dalton north of Zefat; a second for the sons of residents in the Dovev-Avivim area in the central sector, and a third near Shetula, east of Dovev.

In the first stage, which should take 2-2½ years to implement, some 300 families are to settle there, commuting to work outside the area or in working industries which are to be built in the region. There is no prospect of agricultural development there, Zvili said.

The officials are well aware that following the Israel Defence Forces' withdrawal from Lebanon, the border area could come under terrorist attacks.

Zvili has accordingly questioned the advisability of establishing settlements so close to the border. However, his co-chairman, Matityah Drobles, favours increasing the Jewish presence there, saying this would reduce enemy attacks. Experience has shown that isolated settlements attract more enemy attacks.

The establishment of these settlements should cost a total of $10 million to $11m., unless temporary facilities are built there first to enable quick settlement, Zvili said.

A report presented to the department heads yesterday indicated the Jewish Agency Settlement Division has a budget of $67m. This is a result of fund-raising abroad. However such funds cannot be used for settlement in the administered territories, and Zvili and Drobles — wearing the hats of the World Zionist Organization executives — use government funds in the West Bank.

Drobles complained yesterday that his $27m. budget for the administered territories is insufficient for developing existing settlements and establishing new ones at the desired rate. The envisaged four settlements should cost $4.2m., he said. Well-informed sources maintained however that none of the four can be established soon. The site originally slated for Kibbutz 'Asa'el, they said, includes such sharp slopes and limited scope for development that experts have advised finding an alternative site.

One settlement, they said, was supposed to rise near an IDF camp and eventually take over the camp, but the army refused to give up that site. The area selected for Migdalim contains only 50 dunams suitable for settlement, because the rest covers difficult slopes.

French Assembly Head Says UN Vote Not Anti-Israeli

TA252019 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The president of the French National Assembly, Louis Mermaz, said today that the latest French vote at the United Nations should not be regarded as an anti-Israeli move. This is an expression of a difference of opinion between friendly countries, he said. Mermaz is currently visiting Israel, and he emphasized that he believes the process of improving French-Israeli ties will continue.

Coalition Leaders Meet To Improve Relations

TA251852 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] At the Knesset Prime Minister Peres met with coalition leaders this afternoon to discuss recent tension among its members in the government and the Knesset. Among those attending the meeting was coalition executive head Sara Doron who later briefed reporters. Ruth Blaukopf has details:

[Begin Blaukopf recording] Today's meeting was the outcome of talks last week between Prime Minsiter Peres and coalition executive head Sara Doron, in which she suggested regular coalition meetings to preempt what she called misunderstandings within the coalition. Shim'on Peres invited coalition leaders Refa'el Edri, Moshe Shahal, Moshe Nisim, Hayim Kaufman, and Sara Doron to discuss the unity of the coalition in the light of recent sharp exchanges between Labor and Likud members. Their talk this afternoon produced three decisions: A written appeal to members of the Knesset to refrain from vitriolic statements damaging to government credibility; moves to facilitate more private-members' bills as opposed to ministerial legislation, and the application of freedom of voting on specific issues.

Prime Minister Peres had a proposal for the Knesset plenary: institution of a 2-hour question time in the Knesset with all members and ministers present, something along the lines of question time in the British House of Commons. The proposal, according to Sara Doron, is to be examined further. The prime minister also drew attention in the meeting to what he called the poor national mood. Efforts to prevent emigration from Israel must be made, the prime minister said. The full coalition is expected to meet next week to review the winter Knesset session just ending, and to prepare for the next session starting in May. [end recording]

Committee To Meet To Amend Economic Package Deal

TA260624 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0500 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] In late night negotiations, the parties to the economic package deal have decided to set up a joint committee to change the arrangement. The team, appointed at a meeting of the prime minister, the Histadrut, and the industrialists, will make recommendations by the end of the week, when another meeting will be held. At last night's meeting, industrialist head Eli Hurvitz proposed that subsidies and workers' education funds be cancelled in exchange for a 5-day week and tax breaks. Histadrut secretary general Yisra'el Qeysar opposed this. He also said that the Histadrut would agree to price rises of no more than 6 percent, and then a further freeze.

'Significant Deficit' Expected for 1985-86 Budget

TA252001 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Next year's state budget already shows signs of signficant deficit: The immense sum of $1.4 billion is missing from the budget the Knesset is expected to approve the day after tomorrow. This is reported by our correspondent 'Oded Shahar. The deficit results from the budget cuts that have not yet been implemented, and new taxes that have not yet been imposed. Economists have warned again that if the large budget deficit continues, Israel's foreign currency situation will grow even worse.

[Begin Shahar recording] Although the state budget has not yet been adopted, there are already digressions from it. The budget is missing $140 million to cover the expenses in Lebanon; a $250 million deficit appears to be taking shape in the budget for subsidies; the health budget is missing $100 million; the education budget, $50 million; there is no allocation for the tuition levy, and the coffers are missing $70 million; the university tuition fee has not been raised, $10 million is needed there; amendments to the national insurance laws have not yet been applied, and $50 million are missing; and the property tax and tax reforms are still being debated. Thus, the budget is lacking $750 million.

All in all, the budget is short a tremendous sum: $1.42 billion. [end recording]

OCAM Dissolved Following Meeting in Togo 23 Mar

AB251240 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 25 Mar 85 p 25

["Final" communique on OCAM summit meeting issued in Lome on 23 March]

[Text] After examining the balance sheet of the organization's activities since its creation, the conference pays tribute to OCAM's very positive action in the field of inter-African cooperation and solidarity and notes with satisfaction and legitimate pride that it achieved all the objectives it had been assigned.

The conference decides, therefore, to pronounce the dissolution of OCAM as well as the removal of its guardianship over all the common enterprises it created. In order to enable the operations of liquidation and devolution of OCAM's properties, the conference has created a ministerial committee consisting of representatives of all the member-states.

At the end of the deliberations, the conference thanks General Gnassingbe Eyadema, president of the Republic of Togo and founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People, the government, and all the Togolese people for the warm and fraternal reception accorded all the delegations as well as for all the various facilities which enabled the good conduct of the deliberations.

Issued in Lome on 23 March 1985.

Air Afrique Summit Issues Communique

AB251215 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 25 Mar 85 p 25

["Final" communique on fourth conference of heads of state of member-countries of the Air Afrique company issued in Lome on 23 March]

[Text] The fourth conference of heads of state of the member-countries of the Air Afrique company took place in Lome on 22 and 23 March under the chairmanship of His Excellency General Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People [RPT] and president of the Republic of Togo. The conference thoroughly analyzed the various problems facing the jointly owned company due to the international economic crisis and generalized recession which may seriously compromise the company's future. The conference reaffirms its faith in the future of this instrument of international solidarity and cooperation as well as its firm desire to ensure its recovery, which would be impossible without a better and more rigorous management. The conference adopted all the recommendations proposed in this regard by the ministerial committee.

The conference approves in principle the additional measures recommended by the auditor appointed by the ministerial committee. In order to enable their implementation as soon as possible, the conference requests Air Afrique's statutory organs in their respective capacities — managing director, board of governors, and ministerial committee — to examine these measures in order to decide ultimately on their application.

The conference takes note of the determination of each member-state to assume the possible consequences of the application of these measures. It, however, insists that the proposed retrenchment of personnel be made on the basis of competence, productivity, and equity. The conference requests the ministerial committee — under the authority of the current chairman of the conference — to follow up the application of these measures and to report to the next extraordinary meeting to be held in Niamey within a year.

In addition to these measures, the conference decided to extend the duration of the agreement determining Air Afrique's fiscal and customs regulations signed in 1970 until the signing of a new agreement. The conference requested the ministerial committee to study and propose the updating of certain provisions of the treaty relating to air transportation signed in Yaounde on 28 March 1961 and its supplementary clauses.

The conference gave directives to the Board of Governors to appoint a new managing director during its meeting in June 1985. The conference appoints His Excellency General Mathieu Kerekou, president of the People's Republic of Benin, chairman of the company until its next ordinary session.

The heads of state and the leaders of delegations thank His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the RPT and president of the Republic, the government, and all the Togolese people for all the material facilities provided for the good conduct of the conference and for the particularly warm, fraternal, and authentic African reception accorded them.

Issued in Lome on 23 March 1985.

Lusophone Nations Approve News Exchange Program

AB251015 Dakar PANA in English 1155 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Maputo, 24 March (AIM/PANA) — The five Portuguese speaking countries in Africa, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe, have approved a broad programme of action aimed at increasing the circulation of news among them. The programme was approved in Maputo today at the end of a three-day meeting of information ministers of the countries, the first such meeting to be held.

The programme includes regular exchanges between the press, broadcasting institutions, news agencies and mass media in the rural areas, and in the fields of photography, records, graphic arts and professional training. As well as increasing the amount of news sent betweeen the five countries, the press and radio in each of the five will create special sections for this news. Each country will also send correspondents to the other four.

For the news agencies, a study is to be made on the possibility of direct telecommunications links between the five, which may then be presented for financing to UNESCO as a joint project. It was also agreed to make maximum use of local capacity for professional training, as well as jointly using training facilities outside the group, such as the Yugoslav Institute of Journalism.

On the question of culture, the meeting passed a recommendation to the sub-commission of the five countries on training, research and culture to step up efforts to recover from Portugal, the former colonial power, items of their historical heritage. The information ministers agreed to meet annually to coordinate cooperation.

A final communique from the meeting, read out today by Mozambican information minister, Mr Jose Luis Cabaco, noted that cooperation in information "is a fundamental element in strengthening mutual knowledge of our peoples, so that each one reinforces awareness that they are not fighting a lone battle". The document said that the peoples of the five countries "have the right to defend the truth of our reality and see it presented against a just historical-cultural background."

The meeting considered the PAN-AFRICAN NEWS AGENCY (PANA) as important in achieving a new information order, as was the pool of news agencies of the non-aligned countries. The five countries expressed full confidence in UNESCO and in its orientation "at a time in which the major news monopolies are carrying out a violent campaign against UNESCO".

The meeting also passed a motion of support for the peoples of southern Africa and of East Timor. The motion, read out by the secretary of state for information of Cape Verde, Mr Corsino Fortes, said the five "reaffirm solidarity with the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and East Timor, led by their vanguards – the ANC, SWAPO and Fretilin [Revolutionary Front for East Timor Independence] respectively "against apartheid, South African colonisation and occupation of East Timor by the Indonesian Army".

The meeting in Maputo was also attended by the MPLA party's secretary for ideology, Mr Roberto de Almedida, Guinea Bissau's information secretary, Mr Agnello Regalla, Mr Joao Barbosa Neto, director of broadcasting in Sao Tome.

The next information meeting of the five will be held next year in the Angolan capital.

Interparliamentary Union Conference Opens 25 Mar

AB252113 Lome Domestic Service in French
1900 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpt] At the party house this morning General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Rally of the Togolese People and president of the Republic, opened the 73d conference of the Interparliamentary Union. The 6-day conference is being attended by 800 delegates from 103 member-countries of the union. Founded in 1889, the aim of the Interparliamentary Union is to promote contacts between members of parliament and to bring them together for a common cause.

The conference, which is being organized by the union in our capital, will among other issues discuss the effects of drought, desert encroachment, famine, external debt of Third World countries and disarmament.

ALGERIA

Visits of Kuwaiti, Saudi Foreign Ministers Detailed

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives

LD231727 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, arrived in Algiers this evening on a 2-day official visit. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told reporters upon his arrival that the aim of his visit to Algeria is to carry out consultations with Algerian officials on ways to find a peaceful solution to the bloody dispute between Iraqi and Iran and on the question of making preparations for an Arab summit conference.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives

LD231858 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1740 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Algiers, 23 Mar (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, arrived in Algiers this evening on a visit, during which he will conduct talks with Algerian officials on a number of topics of mutual interest.

Upon his arrival, Prince Sa'ud said that his visit to Algeria falls within the framework of GCC activities to peacefully end the dispute between Iraq and Iran in the interest of the Islamic nation.

After his visit to Algeria, Prince Sa'ud will go to Tunis to lead the Kingdom's delegation to the meeting of the Arab League Council there.

Ministers Meet With Bendjedid

LD241704 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1435 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Algiers, 24 Mar (SPA) — Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid today received His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

The situation in the Arab arena and developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war were reviewed during the meeting which was attended by Algeria's foreign minister, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi.

LIBYA

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR Analyzes Shultz Statement

LD251932 Tripoli JANA in English 1754 GMT 25 Mar 85

[*AL ZAHF AL AKHDAR*: "Reactionary Heads Must Roll To Halt the Reactionary Move" — JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Rajab, 25 March, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — *AL ZAHF AL AKHDAR* newspaper published by the revolutionary committees in Tripoli talked about dimensions of the statements George Shultz the U.S. secretary of state made after meeting with the Jordanian foreign minister in Washington in which he said: "the ball starts to roll, we must keep it moving".

The paper analyzed the underlying meaning of Shultz' statements and confirmed that: "Of course he meant that the wheels of the defeatist train had started to turn and move and the U.S. Government, with the help of its puppets in the region, must keep its movement towards the desired goals". It said: "We do not need to explain who are those that keep the ball rolling. They are: Yasir 'Arafat, the leader of the Palestinian right, Husayn ibn Talal and Husni Mubarak the successor of the deceased Al-Sadat".

The paper pointed out to the Egyptian foreign minister's declaration that Iraq has become a major partner in what he called the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East. The paper said that this declaration was not a surprise, but the surprise was in the rude method they used to declare the catching-up of the regime of Saddam Husayn al-Tikriti with the defeatist train officially.

AL ZAHF AL AKHDAR explained: "We are not going far when we say that the declaration that Al-Tikriti's regime has joined the David's stable does not lack a satirical hint the Egyptian regime gave to ridicule them as though saying 'there is the head of the David's stable accord visiting the capital where the boycott of the Egyptian regime was decided and the besieging and causing the down fall of this accord.' He even convinced this regime to quickly follow his steps".

The paper reviewed the history of the regime of Saddam Husayn al-Tikriti on the light of its stances that confirm its treachery towards the Arab nation. It pointed out in this respect to the dirty war this regime launched against the Islamic revolution in Iran and the reasons behind the supply of arms and money from the colonial and reactionary circles to this regime to help it to continue its dirty war. The newspaper said in this respect: "If it were not for the existing anti-Zionist and anti-imperialist regime in Iran, those would have not supported Saddam with a single bullet. Saddam himself would have not fought it".

AL ZAHF AL AKHDAR newspaper dealt, in an editorial headed "The Upside Down Picture" with allegations circulated by reactionism and American imperialism by saying that the existing war now is between the Arabs and Persians aimed at winning sympathy of the Arab masses who know quite well that the formula is not as such silly and twisting way. [sentence as received]

AL ZAHF AL AKHDAR said that parties of the Arab reactionary axis are not only dressing treachery with the clothes of virtue but also trying in an insolent manner to fake facts of events we live with and portraying the friend with the enemy and the enemy with the friend. It went on to say that the Iranian regime which stands firmly against the crusade and Zionist enemy is being portrayed as the enemy, blood thirsty for Arab blood. On the other hand, the Zionist enemy which occupies the Arab land and implements, in fact, the scheme of terminating the Arabs and committed and is still committing a series of vicious massacres and destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor is portrayed by the

reactionary axis as the friend and call for reconcilation and co-existance with it.

The paper said amid this upside down picture, America which leads the tenth crusade attack against the Arabs, has become also, a peace loving and campaigner of stability in the region as portrayed by the parties of the Arab reactionary axis.

It concluded by saying that after all this it seems that we are not in need of explaining the scope of the attacks aimed at this nation, using all despicable weapons including lies and hypocrisy and portraying the issues on untrue basis. This matter requires from the nationalist command of the revolutionary forces who are going to meet during the coming few days to be up to the level of the raised challenges.

If Shultz had said that the "ball began to roll and America must maintain this move, we say on our side that reactionary heads must be rolled until this reactionary move stops which aims at giving the Arab date on a golden plate to our historical enemies".

MOROCCO

Libya's Al-Turayki Arrives, Makes Statement

LD231656 Rabat MAP in English 1218 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Marrakech, March 23 (MAP) — Mr 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, Libyan secretary of the Foreign Relations' Popular Committee (foreign minister) arrived Friday in Marrakech. In a statement upon arrival here, Mr al-Turayki said he was bearing a message from Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to King Hassan II of Morocco.

Expressing pleasure at "being with my colleagues in Marrakech", Mr al-Turayki said his visit fell in the context of contacts and permanent consultations between the states of the Arabo-African union in view of coordinating their stance on Arab, African and international issues. He added that his visit will provide the opportunity to confer with the Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and of information, Dr Abdellatif Filali, and with other Moroccan officials.

Mr al-Turayki, who was accompanied by Mr Muhammad Abu al-Qasim Zuwayy, Libyan resident secretary (minister) in Morocco, and Mr Muhammad al-Khalifah Abu al-Qasim, Libyan ambassador to Morocco, had arrived in Rabat on Thursday.

King Hassan Receives PLO, Libyan Envoys

LD231911 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] King Hassan II, at noon today at the Royal Palace at Marrakesh, received Hani al-Hasan, the political adviser and special envoy of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, in the presence of the Moroccan minister of information and foreign affairs, Abdellatif Filali and the PLO representative in Rabat, Abu Marwan.

Later the king received 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the presence of Minister of Information and Foreign Affairs Abdellatif Filali; the Libyan secretary resident in Rabat, Muhammad Abu al-Qasim Mansur; the secretary of the People's Bureau in Rabat, Muhammad al-Kammur; and the Moroccan ambassador to Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Abdelhakim Laraki.

PLO Envoy Departs

LD242119 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, the political adviser of the PLO chairman and the special envoy of Yasir 'Arafat, left Morocco at noon today at the end of a visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II. At the King Muhammad V International Airport lounge the Palestinian official made the following statement to our correspondent:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I had the honor of being received by His Majesty King Hassan II. I acquainted him with the dimensions of the conspiracy, which the Palestinian people are being subjected to, in which some people are trying to obliterate the landmarks of this people's struggle, confiscate the independence of its decisions, and decrease its role in the region.

This reminds us of 1948 when the Arabs were in Lausanne negotiating about the future of the Palestinian people, while the Palestinians sitting in the backrooms were the rightful owners of the issue. Naturally, whenever we encounter difficulties we resort to visiting Morocco in order to submit matters to his majesty the king. We have always been accustomed to hearing his advice which is always useful and in the interests of the Palestinian people. His majesty, as is known, is the chairman of the Jerusalem Committee and the great Moroccan Army, as we know, was always there whenever there was a confrontation battle in the history of this nation. We shall never forget the struggle and great sacrifices of this Army on the Golan Heights in the 1973 war.

I can definitely say that I am leaving Morocco with a feeling of satisfaction, and I am confident that Morocco was and will always be as we have known it — a supporter of the Palestinian issue. God willing, this visit will lead to several important moves whose results we are awaiting as common understanding has been reached during this visit which will be in the interests of Arab solidarity and the Arab nation. In particular we are all committed to the Fes summit resolutions and proceed from the latter — the resolutions of Arab unanimity. The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is an idea which aims to proceed according to the Fes resolutions. [end recording]

Hani al-Hasan was seen off by his majesty's advisor Ahmed Ben Souda, and the PLO representative in Rabat Abu Marwan [Fawwaz Yasin].

Foreign Minister Confers With Spanish Counterpart

For Madrid coverage of the visit to Spain by Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, including his meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran, see the Spain section of the 25 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

SUDAN

Numayri Addresses SSU Central Leadership

Orders Court Verdicts Reviewed

JN231048 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, Rajab 1, Mar 23 (SUNA) – President of the Republic Ja'far Numayri today ordered the vice-president for political and legal affairs to review all court verdicts passed during the decisive justice courts period. Numayri issued the directive in his address before the Sudanese Socialist Union (SSU) central leadership this morning.

Views Role of Universities

JN231111 Khartoum SUNA in English 1055 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, Rajab 1, Mar 23 (SUNA) – President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has said he would never permit the institutions and universities to become staging points or forums for anti-government activities. In an address delivered today before the SSU central leadership, President Numayri stated there would be no alternatives for the SSU, whose doors, he said, would be open for points of view so long as the majority's views are fully respected.

Supports Iraq in Gulf War

JN231130 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Mar (SUNA) – President Numayri has asserted that Sudan will support Iraq in its war against Iran in words, deeds, and in participating in the fighting so long as Iraq adheres to its stand. In his speech before the SSU central leadership today, President Numayri reiterated Sudan's support for steadfast Iraq to protect its territory and for the Iraqi people and leadership in their readiness to resort to peace rather than war. President Numayri called on the Arab countries to abide by the Arab collective defense pact to defend any Arab country against any hostile act. He added that although Sudan favors peace, it is with Islam, which urges Muslims not to be neutral in the face of injustice and aggression. President Numayri said that the forces behind the war against Iraq support the Israeli enemy, which found in Iran a tool to implement its aggressive objectives.

Calls Muslim Brotherhood Terroristic

JN241235 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 23 Mar [date as received] [SUNA] — Leader President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, chairman of the SSU, has said that the Muslim Brotherhood is immersed in international terrorism. He said that they are a party to the arms trade as they have obtained quantities of arms in preparation for the day on which they would carry out their treachery. He said that they have extended their hands and turned to a state that practices terrorism in the name of Islam. This state has harmed Islam to the extent of spilling the blood of Muslim women and children, he added.

Examines Libyan, Iranian Policies

JN241243 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Mar (SUNA) — In his speech yesterday President Numayri revealed Libya's aim in helping the Muslim Brotherhood in Sudan and in sending arms to its members and training them in the use of these arms. He said that the Iranian [as received] regime believed that once Sudan was hit, Egypt would collapse, followed by Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf.

The president added: These are the brothers who were once working within our ranks and whom we supported. They are now cooperating with Khomeyni's Iran, which claims to be Muslim. But Iran has deviated from Islam by its various practices. I am glad that I was among the first leaders to warn that what was taking place in Iran had nothing to do with Islam.

Supports Palestinians

JN241256 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Mar (SUNA) – President Numayri has affirmed that Sudan supports the just rights of the Palestinian people and considers the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement a first step toward comprehensive peace in the region.

His excellency said: We condemn Soviet intransigence and support the Muslim Afghan people until they ensure their national soil. We are with the Lebanese people until they ensure their national soil and liberate their territory from the remaining Israeli occupation.

The president also affirmed that Sudan is for integration with fraternal Egypt until the one people in Egypt and Sudan achieve their objective of abundance, prosperity, and progress. He added: We are with its president in his efforts for the sake of peace in the region.

This came in the address which President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri made yesterday before the meeting of the SSU central leadership.

SSU Central Leadership Resumes Deliberations

JN242052 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 24 Mar (SUNA) — The fifth session of the SSU central leadership resumed its work here at 1000 today. In its third meeting under leader President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, chairman of the SSU, the leadership discussed the reports that the secretaries of the regions and the national capital had presented during the second meeting last night. Dr (Pacifico)

began the discussions and announced the Equatoria masses' approval of the leader president's recent decisions that disclosed the plans of the Muslim Brotherhood. He also pointed out that the Muslim Brotherhood's organization is operating in the Equatoria Region under the cover of Islam through certain societies. He also asserted the Equatoria masses' adherence to national unity.

Commenting on Dr (Pacifico's) remarks, the president leader said that the Muslim Brotherhood concerned about the revolution are those leading a political party similar to this organization. He explained that there are many religious societies working for the interest of individuals, be they Christian or Muslim societies. He added that the revolution is not after such societies that extend various services to citizens.

'Abdallah Nasir Qanawi asked the leadership to review the performance of the foreign banks in the country, especially the Islamic banks, because these banks have not contributed to Sudan's development to the extent agreed on in their foundation contracts. He said that such banks are working only for profit, adding that the establishment of the Workers' Bank has come to confirm the workers' rejection of the practices of the foreign banks' in the country. He added that the Workers' Bank will set an example for other banks regarding contributions to the country's development.

Qanawi urged reconsideration of the organizational structure of the SSU General Secretariat and called for a specific political program for the political organization in accordance with current requirements.

Zaki al-Din Bilal indicated that the Muslim Brotherhood exploited the mosques and religious societies far beyond their respective duties. He urged enlightening the citzens' political organization against the rumors the enemies of the revolution and the homeland are spreading. He added that the recent price increase of some commodities was carried out in secrecy and that the political organization and the masses have not yet noted the true state of affairs that were the result of this increase.

Kamal 'Umar al-Amin, secretary of the Political Affairs Committee, spoke in the central leadership meeting and pointed out that safeguarding the revolution requires following up the impact of the Muslim Brotherhood. He indicated the necessity to liquidate all their remaining pockets and followers in all places. He explained that everyone inside and outside Sudan must know that they are asked to deal with Sudan and not with a specific group. He asked for holding meetings with Arab investors to explain Sudan's policy in this regard, and granting them all guarantees that would preserve their rights. He also asked that efforts be made to explain that there is no connection between the Islamic line that the revolution has adopted as a method of political action and the Muslim Brotherhood'sgroup. He asked for a comprehensive review of the ways to implement the Islamic law to purify it from the contaminations that resulted from faulty implementation.

Kamal 'Umar al-Amin thanked the fraternal and friendly countries that helped Sudan avert the effects of drought and desertification, particularly Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United States.

At the end of the session, the leader president commented on what was said in the meeting. He asserted that the Muslim Brotherhood did not contribute to drawing up Islamic laws in the country. He said that it is incorrect to say that the Islamic laws must be reviewed because the Muslim Brotherhood drew them up. He added that the Muslim Brotherhood opposed the application of Islamic shari'a in these laws during the first 2 months of their application. However, they adapted themselves to these laws after they were instructed by their leadership to do so in order not to miss the opportunity.

President Numayri Receives Message From King Fahd

JN251733 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1717 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Mar (SUNA) – President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has received a message from Saudi King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on bilateral relations. This took place during Numayri's reception of King Fahd's personal envoy Prince Turki al-Faysal here today. The meeting was attended by First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib.

SPLA Radio: Garang Addresses Countrymen

LD222057 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Speech by John Garang de Mabior, chairman of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM]; place and date not given – recorded]

[Text] Nationalists, patriots, fellow countrymen. In March last year I appealed to you on the founding of the SPLM and SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]. In that appeal I outlined the principles and objectives of the movement. Some of the points contained in that appeal are worth repeating and reiterating because the test of time has proved that our understanding of the problems of our country is correct while at the same time the enemy, the oppressor in Khartoum, Numayri's minority one-man, no-system dictatorship, has tried all means at its disposal to distort these principles and objectives in order to distract and divert the Sudanese people from the true path of liberation that the SPLA-SPLM has charted since 16 May 1983.

Dear compatriots. The objectives of the SPLA-SPLM were proclaimed and issued in a manifesto in July 1983. In summary we are committed to the liberation of the whole Sudan and to the unity of its people and its territorial integrity. We are committed to the establishment of a democratic socialist (?republic) in which equality, freedom, economic and social justice, and respect for human rights are not mere slogans but concrete realities that we should promote and protect.

We are committed to solving nationality and religious questions to the satisfaction of all citizens and within a democratic and secular context and in accordance with the objective realities of our country. We stand for genuine autonomous or federal government for various regions of the Sudan: a form of regionalism

that will enable the masses not the regional elites to exercise real power for economic and social development and the promotion and preservation of their cultures.

We are committed to a radical restructuring of the power of the central government in a manner that will end once and for all the monopolization of this power by any self-appointed minority regime, whatever (?its) background: whether they come in the uniforms of political parties, family dynasties, religious sects, or Army officers. We firmly stand for putting to an end the circumstances and policies that have led to the present uneven development of the Sudan: The state of affairs in which vast regions of the Sudan, south, west, east, and far north find themselves as undeveloped territories to the relatively developed central regions of our country. [sentence as heard]

We are committed to fight to the end racism that various minority regimes in Khartoum have found useful to institutionalize and that have often been reflected in various forms, such as the apartheid-style culture, the policy under which many poor and unemployed have been forcibly driven en masse to their regions of origin, mainly the western and southern parts of the country, for the simple reason that they do not belong to Khartoum with the ruling clique safe in their home alone and not for all the Sudanese. [sentence as heard]

Another racist attitude and behavior is the current trend from the ruling clique to judge all attempts at coups d'etat by soldiers from western and southern Sudan as racist. We are dedicated to the eradication of tribalism, sectionalism, and provincialism which have of late been fanned by the regime and other self-seeking politicians to divide and weaken the Sudanese people.

We are committed to the rapid transformation of our country from its present state of helplessness, of backwardness, under development, bankruptcy, dependency, and retrogression to an industrial and agro-industrial society where the Sudan shall never be again the sickly and degenerate dwarf of the Arab world, nor the stubborn bastard child of Africa. We have sufficient national resources, bountiful agricultural land, water and minerals, skilled manpower, and the national will to transform this dream into reality.

Fellow countrymen. In proclaiming and pursuing these objectives I have just mentioned we have no illusions about the abhorrent nature of the regime we are fighting. We are fighting a one-man rule, a dictator who is clinging to power by means of using savage repression, torture, unlawful detention, harassment, and the murder of innocent citizens by the security apparatus. We are aware that our objectives can neither be asked from nor negotiated with the minority and decaying regime in Khartoum. We are mentally and physically prepared to fight a long war to completely destroy all the institutions of oppression that have been evolved in Khartoum to oppress the masses of the Sudanese people. The history of the Sudanese masses since time immemorial has been the struggle against internal and external oppression. The SPLA-SPLM represents the highest form of this historical struggle of the masses and in this I assure the Sudanese people that the SPLA-SPLM shall never, never let them down in their just struggle for real freedom, democracy, human dignity, and economic and social justice.

Fellow countrymen. The movement's great military and political achievements within a relatively short time of only 22 months of revolutionary armed struggle have thrown the oppressors in Khartoum into complete disarray. Numayri's May regime has lost its bearings and it is tottering, senile, towards its final collapse. The regime is like a patient at the terminal stage of illness. This state of affairs did not come about by chance. As the revolutionary upsurge of the masses and and actions grow, the fortunes of the unpopular system in our country dwindle on their own with the result that the system and those who benefit from it become desperate and ready to do anything, including selling national sovereignty if that could delay the inevitable victory of the people and their revolution spearheaded by the SPLA-SPLM.

When a buffalo is seriously wounded it becomes more dangerous just before it releases its last breath of life. Numayri's system is just like that and prepared to plunge the country into total chaos in its vain attempts to hold onto the power even by holding on to red hot iron nails. In this connection Numayri has desperately tried all means to use his time-tried weapon of dividing the Sudanese people to make them fight among themselves in order to continue to rule them.

Fellow countrymen. In my last appeal I had warned you that the oppressor has time and again employed various policies and methods of destroying or weakening the just struggle of our people and that his notorious policy of divide and rule has been widely and frequently used as a weapon by Numayri against the people's struggle. The oppressor has always divided the Sudanese people into northerners and southerners, into Arabs and Africans, Muslims and Christians, and so forth. In the net results our people have been categorized into westerners, easterners, fallahas [peasants], Arabs and the so-called Awlad al-Balad [sons of the country], while in the south the enemy has attempted to politicize the people along tribal lines and tribes into sections.

Compatriots, the SPLA-SPLM has fought consistently and resolutely against all attempts aimed at dividing the Sudanese people and the regime in Khartoum is genuinely disturbed and confused by our unshakable and stern commitment to the cause of our people all over the Sudan. Numayri is angry. He is scared and is in a state of helplessness because the SPLM calls for the unity of the Sudan and denounces all forms of secession. The regime has fought hard to pin the label of separatism on the SPLM, but we have fought this lie with energy and have won because what we say is what we believe and practice.

Today, our people everywhere in the Sudan — in the south, in the west, in the east, north, and central parts — no longer believe that the SPLA-SPLM is a separatist or a southern organization. They have come to believe the fact that we are a national movement because of our principles and and beliefs. The SPLA have indeed torn into pieces the north-south polarization.

It is because we are sincere and have never wavered on the question of unity that the people believe us. It is why patriots from what used to be called north have joined the movement. Among prominent northerners who have become members of the movement are patriots like Brother Yusuf (Kuwor), who, until he left last year, was the deputy leader of the [words indistinct]

assembly body of Kordofan general service; Brother Daniel (Kodi), who, until 3 weeks ago was a member of the National Assembly for southern Kordofan; and First Lieutenant (Rahmah), who recently destroyed several enemy vehicles in Bentiu fighting as a company commander in Timsah [Crocodile] Battalion.

Several prominent politicians and Army officers from the north are already talking with the SPLA-SPLM leadership and announcements will soon be forthcoming about welcoming into the movement these citizens who have shown their concern about the future of our country.

The idea of the south and north being traditional enemies has been completely destroyed and buried for good in less than two years of sincere education on our side and that open-mindedness shown by our people from the northern Sudan to our brothers of the south. Of course, the May regime is bitter with this development, which has blown their foundations. It means the loss of one of its weapons against the Sudanese people. The weapon aimed at the unity of the people. But this sudden destruction of the north-south divide shall remain as one of the great achievements of the SPLA-SPLM.

Fellow countrymen. Seeing that the movement has won the battle against Numayri's claim that it is separatist, seeing the north-south divide crumble, the regime found another weapon in tribalism. The regime openly conducted a morbid campaign of hate and distortion, projecting the SPLA not only as a separatist and southern movement but that it was a tribal organization of the Dinka.

Proceeding from this obnoxious reasoning, the regime has tried all means to place tribes against one another with the hope of destroying the movement. Separatists such as William 'Abdallah Chuol became the friends of the regime and its policy. They were armed to fight the SPLA.

Stooges like Daniel Kuot Matthews [governor of Upper Nile Region] were incited and given money and guns to arm their innocent tribesmen to fight the SPLA for reasons these simple people did not understand. Then the enemies of the SPLA went on dreaming to see the communists into the open — a Dinka-Nuer conflict, which, they hoped, would disintegrate the movement. But the consciousness of our people has stood between our goals and the evil intentions and wishes of the enemy. Numayri's attempt to use tribalism as an instrument to rend the movement asunder, although it has failed, has been responsible for the destruction of lives and properties of innocent citizens who fell victim — victims of tools and stooges like 'Abdallah Chuol and D.K. Matthews, who allowed themselves to be used to promote Numayri's schemes.

The use of tribalism by the enemy connected it with it [as heard] because the SPLA-SPLM has from the beginning been consistent in principles and has fought against this weapon of tribalism patiently, resolutely, firmly, and responsibly, making careful distinction between those on the payroll of the enemy and avoiding those innocent citizens who (?messed) with hostile elements. The people, the common folk in the villages, showed more maturity than the D.K.S [reference to Matthews] when they were quick to be able to identify the real enemy as witnessed very recently by the battle of Jokau on 3 March 1985 when the [words indistinct] saw the battalion of Colonel (Ballah) 15 miles before the enemy reached the positions of the SPLA. Failing to use the weapon of tribalism against the movement in Upper Nile and Bahr al-Ghazal, the regime came to realize too late that little could stop the movement moving to other areas of the Sudan, as it has done by shifting [words indistinct] to Equatoria. The Tomburas and Wajos [references to James Joseph Tombura, governor of Equatoria Region, and Francis Wajo, deputy governor of Equatoria] have been told that the SPLA was there to fight against Equatoria, not even against Numayri. But aginst Equatoria Region?

Radio Juba extended its program to 1500 [local time] to fight it out with Radio SPLA and all sentiments of (Kokoro) or division were fanned up once more. But the people of Equatoria knew that the SPLA will not and is not a party to the local Juba politics. The people of Equatoria believe that the movement is fighting to liberate the whole Sudan and that Equatoria must make its rightful contribution to the liberation of the Sudan. So the people of Equatoria have joined the SPLA in thousands and they have already (?proved) [words indistinct] as men who have the interests of the Sudanese people at heart.

Fellow-countrymen. The regime in Khartoum has fought very hard to isolate the movement of the Sudanese people by depicting the SPLA as communist and blaming all the difficulties in the south on alleged foreign conspiracies emanating from Moscow, Addis Ababa, and Tripoli. But the Sudanese people and the Sudanese Army see the war in war zone one not as communist inspired, but, on the contrary, as caused and capitalized by Numayri.

The Sudanese people and the Sudanese Army know that it was Numayri, not the SPLA, that tore up the Addis Ababa agreement in June 1983 in violation of his own constitutional laws. It was Numayri, not the SPLM, that started the unlawful foreign policy of moving troops from the south to the north against the contravention [as heard] of the Addis Ababa agreement. It was Numayri who introduced the [words indistinct]. It was not the SPLA that evicted its own citizens from Khartoum.

It was Numayri, not the SPLM, that sabotaged the democratic process in the south by dissolving the legally elected regional government in the south in 1980, 1981, and 1983 and again in violation of his own constitution. It was Numayri's regime, not the SPLM, that failed to execute the central governments projects in the south, like Tonj Canal, Melut and Mongalla sugar projects, Wau brewery, Kapoeta cement factory, Malakal pulp and paper factory, Bentiu electrical plant, etc. The failure of the central government to execute these projects at a time when similar and contemporary projects were completed in the north was the confirmation of the central government's neglect and indifference to the social and economic development of the south. It was Numayri, not the SPLM or some foreign country, who started this war. It was Numayri who attacked his own garrison. He attacked Battalion 105 garrisons in Bor, Pibor, and Pachala on 16 May 1983. Again, on 5 June 1983, he attacked his own garrison at Ayod, of Battalion 104.

The Sudanese Army knows these facts; so do the Sudanese people — and that is why they call the present war Numayri's war. Only Numayri and his clique invoked communism to beg material assistance from the West and to blackmail the SPLA and divide the Sudanese people. [passage indistinct]. The people know that the only declaration of policy we have publicly affirmed is that the SPLA-SPLM is a socialist organization. But then, too, is Numayri's Sudanese Socialist Union.

Fellow countrymen. Numayri's bag of tricks is almost empty. All the various schemes the regime has employed to divide and weaken the peoples struggle have all failed and the SPLA marches on. The north-south divide has crumbled and only those myopic southerners and northerners who cannot see the dawn of the new Sudan still cling on to it. The charge of separatism has died along with the north-south divide, while the charge of communism against the SPLA has been discredited. The movement is no longer seen by Muslims as anti-Islam, because we have many Muslims in our ranks, while the charge of racism makes nonsense against all the Sudanese nationalities which [words indistinct] in the movement and no one particular nationality claims to be any more Sudanese than the others.

The fanning up of tribalism and equatorianism in the south have all failed to impede the progress of the movement and the people have become conscious to the extent that they now accuse Numayri himself of tribalism. However, it is a characteristic of all parasitic regimes such as Numayri's to always look for new slogans to divide the people. For otherwise, if the people are united, the regime will collapse. But, the regime must of necessity develop new ways to divide and weaken the struggle.

In my last appeal, one year ago, I warned you that the oppressor has time and again employed various policies and methods of destroying or weakening the just struggle of our people, including that most notorious policy of divide and rule. And I emphasize that tomorrow when these divisions become out-dated, the oppressor will contrive other ingenious schemes for keeping the Sudanese people and their just struggle divided and weak.

Fellow countrymen. It is in this context of the regime devising new methods of division that the recent pronouncement by Numayri of dialogue, negotiations, and cease-fire must be viewed. The minority regime in Khartoum is determined to use plots in the place of those which we have defeated. The new (?appeal) is for Numayri to tantalize the Sudanese people with a prospect for peace, because he knows that he has terrorized and bankrupted the nation sufficiently enough for the people to be buoyed by false promises that peace and prosperity are just around the corner. In this respect, since the middle of last year, Numayri has posed as the peacemaker, while portraying the SPLA-SPLM as intransigent and warmongers. Using this new ploy Numayri and his system have made moves to deceive the Sudanese people and the Western world that this one-time communist, this imam, this murderer can bring real peace to the Sudan.

Numayri started his so-called peace offensive in February 1984 by arming the bandit gang of Gaitut, (Okod) Atem, and William 'Abdallah Chuol to fight the SPLA, while at the same time offering to negotiate with them. This concoction was doomed to failure and it did fail after much suffering by innocent people. It is ridiculous to negotiate with someone with whom you are not fighting. But the ploy gained some points for Numayri as a peacemaker in the eyes of his foreign friends and he was encouraged to fabricate more tricks in the direction of negotiations and peace.

The regime concocted more false negotiations to prove Numayri's peace image. Attempts were made to negotiate with some imaginary five groups of Anyanya II in Bentiu. But this ploy ended in an embarrassment which would make leaders of other countries resign but which Numayri bore without shame. His peace delegation consisting of 21 members headed by his commissioner of the so-called unity province all defected to the SPLA when finding that Numayri had deceived them just to boost his peace image. The delegation found no such five groups of Anyanya II in Bentiu. All Anyanya II had long joined the SPLA.

Left with nobody else to use, Numayri, on 3 March 1985 declared a unilateral cease-fire with what he termed outlaws. While Numayri was announcing his cease-fire at 3 p.m. (local), his forces, under Colonel Bala, arrived and attacked SPLA forces in Jokau. SPLA, of course, dispersed this force. Four days later, on 7 of March 1985, Numayri sent two companies of paratroopers to attack, this time not the SPLA but his own army garrison in Kajo Kaji alleging that the commander, Major Martin Manyuel, was a rebel and a member of the SPLA.

It is clear that the idea of the ceasefire is not [words indistinct]. It is designed for external and domestic consumption, that is, to present Numayri as peacemaker. In military terms, (?if) the SPLA accepts the so-called cease-fire, Numayri would use the 3 remaining months of the present dry season to stock his remote and besieged garrisons with food and ammunition. Numayri followed up his cease-fire declaration with a formation of the so-called High Committee for Peace to find, what Numayri called, the final solution to the southern problem. In other words Numayri is telling the Sudanese people, maybe without himself knowing it and the world at large, that his 1972 Addis Ababa agreement was a temporary solution. The ploy, of course, is to please the American President as the announcement of the so-called peace committee was immediately after the end of the visit of Mr George Bush. Otherwise there is nothing that makes Numayri's 1985 peace agreement more permanent of a solution than his 1972 agreement.

Fellow countrymen. Numayri's slogans of dialogue, negotiations, cease-fire, the so-called High Committee for Peace and his final solution to the southern problem are all hollow and despicable attempts to win foreign friends and to divide the Sudanese people into those who want peace and those who allegedly do not want peace. There are apparently still some southerners who think in terms of the southern problem and who believe that the SPLA has made sufficient pressure and are convinced that now is the time for the south to get the best possible concessions from the north.

Similarly, there are northerners who believe that now is the time to give the southerners their reasonable demands before it is too late. Fellow countrymen.The SPLA-SPLM categorically rejects Numayri's so-called dialogue and negotiations.

Numayri has different meanings for these words. The Sudanese people know very well what Numayri meant by dialogue, negotiations, and agreements and these are shown by his deeds over the last 15 years. To mention only a few, in 1969 Numayri was the communist who, in his own words, was going to turn the Sudan into what he termed the Cuba of Africa. Numayri came into agreement with the Communist Party of Sudan and other elements to seize power after which this marriage of convenience ended up in a [words indistinct] massacre of members and leadership of the Communist Party.

Also in 1969, Numayri made a pact with the Republican Brothers, just to execute their 76-year old leader, Mahmud Muhammad Taha, in 1985. In 1972, Numayri signed the Addis Ababa agreement, just to abrogate it in 1983.

In 1977, Numayri made an agreement with the national front in the so-called national reconciliation with Sadiq al-Mahdi whom he imprisoned in 1983. Nineteen eighty-three saw the emergence of the Muslim brothers as Numayri's political allies, while 1985 saw their dismissal and imprisonment of their leadership.

Fellow countrymen. The above are but few experiences by the Sudanese people with Numayri's peace initiatives. In a nutshell, Numayri is a man who initiates dialogue, negotiations, and agreements with the sole purpose of destroying them. Our masses must never again be deceived to listen to lies, plots, and intrigues in Khartoum. The SPLA-SPLM will never betray the Sudanese people to negotiate with an oppressor, the regime of Ja'far Numayri or any similar minority government in Khartoum.

Fellow countrymen. The SPLM is determined to fight for a democratic and socialist Sudan where social justice, freedom, and human dignity flourish. We fight for a socialist and democratic Sudan in which the nationality question, that is [words indistinct] cultural identity of various nationalities in the Sudan, is solved. We fight for a Sudan in which the problem of uneven development is solved so that all the regions, especially the most neglected regions, receive a fair and accelerated socioeconomic development — a Sudan free from racism, a Sudan in which power is vested in the masses, exercised by them and in their interest, a Sudan in which there is no monopoly of power by any ethnic, religious or regional group.

We are committed to the liberation of the Sudan and to us liberation is a continuous process involving not only political and economic liberation but also the liberation of the mind so that the Sudanese are proud of their identity, their heritage, their history, their values and their heroic struggle.

We are committed to wrest power from the minority clique in Khartoum, not to negotiate with it. Therefore, patriots, having rejected Numayri's so-called dialogue and so-called peace talks and so-called High Committee for Peace for reasons you all agree are justified, I want to present to you and to the Sudanese Army a correct and viable way to achieve peace and usher our country into a new era of economic and social development, an era of peace and progress for all.

Therefore, patriots, as you know the present war has been forced on us by the malpractices of the one-man rule of Numayri. In any battle in which the SPLA has engaged Numayri's Army, the SPLA always came out victorious, leaving in its wake many members of Numayri's army dead or wounded. These victims are Sudanese and have no cause to die for other than to keep Numayri in power, and worse yet, very bad indeed, Numayri does not care about the Sudanese soldier. That Sudanese soldier who dies in battle to keep him in power — Numayri does not care. Numayri denies them, the soldiers who die in battle, the honor to die a soldiers death, that is with honor.

To date, the SPLA has shot down eight helicopters, two Buffalos and one F-5 and we have fought in many garrisons and conducted many ambushes, but the regime explains all these things away. The planes are reported to have crashed in accidents arising from technical faults, bad weather, lightning and so forth. When hundreds of soldiers die to maintain Numayri in power, the regime shamelessly reports that one or two of its soldiers died.

There is even a committee in the Army GHQ in Khartoum whose job is to write fake letters to families of dead soldiers, lying to the families that the loved ones are the ones like him. [sentence as heard] Some other letters are written as condolences to families, telling them that their loved one died of malaria or some other disease.

We think that keeping Numayri in power is not worth dying for. We believe that real peace can be brought about by the SPLA and the Sudanese Army — and without Numayri. The guns, the guns we use now to kill, ourselves, should be turned against the real enemies of the people: Numayri's regime. I appeal to the Sudanese Army, to all officers NCO's and soldiers in all garrisons and especially in the south, to forget about Numayri and his high committees — his High Committee for Peace, his High Committee for National Economy, his High Committee for this and that — and to talk directly with the SPLA.

I appeal to the Sudanese Army to start talking directly with the SPLA and not through Numayri. In the garrisons you form your own peace committees. You form your own committees, and contact the SPLA. This is the only genuine talk that can bring peace, because Numayri has discredited himself through his 16 years of rule. His hands are still wet with the blood of many heroes both on the side of the Sudanese Army and on the side of the SPLA. He must be forgotten. He cannot bring peace. Peace can only be brought directly by the Sudanese Army and the SPLA.

Numayri has nothing new to offer. Forget about him and all those around him who have blacked our country for the last 16 years. You form your committees in every garrison and contact our committees and let us discuss directly how to bring this war to an end and how to form a new Sudan. This dialogue, this dialogue directly between the SPLA and the Sudanese Army, has better chances of bringing peace, unity, and prosperity to the Sudan than Numayri's dialogue with William 'Abdallah Chuol and five groups of Anyanya II and with all sorts of imaginary groups. We are the ones who are fighting. We are the ones who are dying. Our dialogue makes much more sense than the dialogue of this rogue and criminal in Khartoum. Again I would like to reiterate and reaffirm that the SPLA-SPLM is a genuine Sudanese Liberation movement and we call upon all Sudanese people to

join this movement and build a new Sudan. Thank you very much.

TUNISIA

President Bourguiba Receives King Fahd's Message

LD260714 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Tunis, 25 Mar (SPA) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba received a message today from His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz concerning current developments of the Arab situation. The message was conveyed by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the minister of foreign affairs, during his meeting with the Tunisian president.

In a statement after the meeting, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, pointed out that the message he conveyed to the Tunisian president concerns the current issues for the Arab nation — the Palestinian issue, the Iraq-Iran war, and the occupation of Lebanon. His highness said: As usual, we found President Habib Bourguiba to have the noble pan-Arab feeling and a commitment to fulfill the legitimate rights of the Arab nation and face up to the challenges of this nation. These feelings will give us all a great push forward, because whatever the difficulties or dangers, honest struggle and perseverance will definitely fulfill the aspirations of our Arab nation. The meeting was attended by Beji Caid Essebsi, the Tunisian minister of foreign affairs; and Fa'iq Ghazzawi, the Kingdom's ambassador to Tunisia.

The minister of foreign affairs arrived yesterday to participate in the meetings of the 83d session of the Arab League Council which commenced today in Tunis.

Essebsi Discusses Ties With Omani Counterpart

LD230621 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Yesterday, Mr Beji Caid Essebsi, the minister of foreign affairs, discussed with his Omani counterpart, Mr Yusuf al-'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, who is currently visiting our country, the bilateral relations and the international regional issues of joint interest, especially the situation in the Middle East and the Arab Maghreb region.

After the meeting, which was attended by the ambassadors of both countries, an extended working session was opened by Mr Beji Caid Essebsi who welcomed the Omani guest and the members of the accompanying delegation. He pointed out that this visit is a chance for the Omani brothers to become informed about the appreciation of President Habib Bourguiba and the Tunisian Government and people for the fraternal Omani people and Sultan Qabus' leadership. Mr Beji Caid Essebsi pointed out that the strong and personal relations between President Habib Bourguiba and Sultan Qabus will consolidate and develop the relations between the two countries in all economic and technical fields. He added that this visit will assist in the exchange of views about issues of joint interest, especially in the regions of the Middle East and the Arab Maghreb, and also in discussing the horizons of the joint Arab action.

For his part the Omani minister expressed his gratitude for the hospitality he and the accompanying delegation received. He said he came to Tunisia convinced that he would find brothers who are keen on working together toward diversifying and developing cooperation between the two countries in the interest of the two fraternal peoples. After pointing out the agreement of the Tunisian-Omani views on major Arab and international political issues, Mr Yusuf al-'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah praised the excellent relations which bind the two countries, and also praised the Tunisian cadres who are working in Oman to accelerate development.

Mr Beji Caid Essebsi explained in detail to the visiting Omani minister the work of Tunisia towards establishing the firm basis for the Greater Arab Maghreb. The Omani minister, in his turn, explained the stages of materializing the idea of the GCC.

The delegations of the two countries will meet today, Saturday, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss the horizons of the bilateral cooperation.

President, Foreign Minister Discuss Mideast Issues

LD240022 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] President Bourguiba reviewed with Mr Beji Caid Essebsi, the minister of foriegn affairs, the latest developments in the Middle East, especially the continuation of the bloody battles between Iraq and Iran and the situation in Lebanon. The minister of foreign affairs handed the president a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The minister briefed the president on Tunisian-Omani relations in light of the talks he had with his Omani counterpart and the working session which took place between the Tunisian and Omani delegations.

The president received a message from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, the Sultan of Oman. The message was conveyed by Mr Yusuf al-'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, who stated that he listened with attention to the views and directives of the supreme combatant. He said that the Omani people, with Sultan Qabus at the forefront, carry every appreciation, respect, and love for President Bourguiba.

The Omani minister stressed that relations between his country and Tunisia are based on agreement in the views between President Habib Bourguiba and Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id.

WESTERN SAHARA

Algiers: Communique on Military Successes Issued

LD251359 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Western Sahara: A statement by the Saharan Ministry of Information and Culture today reported that more than 30 Moroccan soldiers were killed and wounded and a large quantity of military equipment was destroyed by the fighters of the

Saharan People's Liberation Army during operations carried out recently within the framework of the Greater Arab Maghreb assault.

The statement pointed out that Moroccan positions in El Aargub were exposed to intense shelling on 9, 10, 13, and 14 March. It explained that the Saharan fighters also carried out other attacks against Moroccan forces stationed at (El Aazim), (Sarifah) (Sradat Jdari), (Rus ibn Amirah), (Rus Sibti), (Qrayir), and (Al-Hadit).

The statement added that the Saharan fighters then concentrated their operations on 16 March against enemy positions in (Sarifah), (Shadhiliyah), (Rus Sibti), and El Aargub. It pointed out that the occupation forces stationed in ('Itbahat Timzaka), Bu Craa region, were exposed to similar attacks. The statement also made it clear that a Land Rover vehicle, mortar positions, and many fortifications were destroyed during these battles. The Saharan fighters also set fire to an observation tower.

ETHIOPIA

Joint Cooperation Meeting With CSSR Begins

EA231008 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The fourth meeting of the revolutionary Ethiopia and Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia Joint Commission for Economic, Scientific, Technical, and Trade Cooperation opened this afternoon. The meeting will review activities carried out in every sector since the third joint commission meeting and the signing of a cooperation agreement in April 1984 and assess the results achieved. The two sides expressed satisfaction at joint activities carried out since the third joint commission meeting and held discussions providing for the carrying out of new projects in the industrial sector in the future and for the further strengthening of their existing relations in the mineral and energy sectors, trade, training of personnel, and the exchange of experts.

At the meeting, which is being held at the Chamber of Commerce assembly hall, the Ethiopian delegation is headed by Comrade Wollie Chekol, Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee member, external trade minister, and chairman of the Ethiopian-Czech Joint Commission; while the Czech delegation is headed by Comrade Bohumil Urban, foreign trade minister and chairman of the Czech-Ethiopian Joint Commission.

The meeting named an industrial and agricultural team, mineral energy sources team, scientific and technological team, and trade and financial team to prepare future joint ventures. It is expected that an economic, scientific, technical, and trade agreement which will strengthen bilateral relations will be signed at the end of the meeting.

USSR Friendship Society Delegation Arrives

LD240039 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] Comrade Nikolay Vasilyev, member of the Central Committee of the CPSU, minister of land reclamation and water resources, and president of the USSR-Ethiopia Friendship Society, has arrived in Addis Ababa leading a three-member delegation. A statement issued by the delegation said that discussions will be held with officials of Ethiopia-Soviet Friendship Committee on questions of further development and strengthening of friendly and cultural links between the peoples of the two countries. The delegation also expressed support for the strengthening of the Soviet people's solidarity with Ethiopian people in the struggle for a new life and defending revolutionary gains.

The delegation's visit comes on the eve of the anniversary of the great victory over fascism and the decisive role played by the Soviet people. The statement said that the Soviet people highly appreciate the contribution of the Ethiopian people to the common cause of crushing fascism. During its week-long visit here, the delegation will participate in ceremonies commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Soviet permanent exhibition here in Addis Ababa.

EPLF Leader on Arms, Military Buildup

LD221412 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1146 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Dispatch by Salah Tayil]

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 22 Mar (KUNA) — The secretary general of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, Ramadan Muhammad Nur, who is now on a visit to the UAE, has stated in an interview with KUNA here today: "We now have tanks, heavy artillary units, heavy machinegun units, and huge military transporters for which we have paid in our Eritrean lives because we have seized them from the Ethiopian enemy Army."

He added: All the weapons Eritrea has are from the weapons seized from the Ethiopians in their war with us. He said: "We do not buy arms except for some ammunition and on very rare occasions." He also said: "We rely on our officers and their experience in training our army."

For over 10 years, he said, we have been raising the slogan of "Self-Reliance and Obtaining Armaments From the Enemy," and we have actually implemented this slogan. Prior to 1975, he added, our weapons were American, but after that they became Eastern bloc weapons. "This was not our choice," he said, "but because of the change of armament source by the enemy, who moved from the lap of the Americans to the lap of the USSR."

Nur said: We are ready for the expected war which is evident by the massing of 50,000 Ethiopian troops, including the paratroop division. This is a new division which consisted earlier of only one brigade, he added. He pointed out that this division is not stationed in Eritrean territory. The Ethiopian Army has further been reinforced by huge numbers and has been carrying out mopping up operations to weaken the Eritrean forces behind the towns, particularly following the Asmara operation last year during which the Asmara airbase was destroyed and the enemy lost about 33 airplanes, most of which were modern fighter planes and a number of military transport planes.

He said that the enemy manpower losses during the war have reached 120,000. This figure, he said, consisted of those killed, wounded, and taken prisoners.

Nur said that the current military situation is good, pointing out that a new chapter has started, which is the chapter of strategic offensive "now that we have overcome many of the conditions that forced us to decide on a strategic withdrawal in 1969 and to be on the defensive, exposed to repeated liquidation attempts."

Ramadan Muhammad Nur added in his interview with KUNA that about 80-85 percent of Eritrean territory has been liberated and is inhabitated by the majority of the Eritrean people. These territories have witnessed political, economic, and social change, he said, adding that the masses have organized themselves in unions which operate in full harmony and coordination and contribute to the social and economic development. He spoke of implementing agrarian reform on a large scale and the distribution of land among the peasants, in addition to the establishment of cooperative farms and cooperative societies as well as 250 schools, elementary, middle, and secondary, which have 50,000 students. The cooperative societies formed, he said, provide the

people with food and consumer goods at reasonable prices. Health clinics and mobile medical units and central hospitals have been set up to provide medical services to the people and the fighters alike.

KENYA

Foreign Minister Condemns Killings in RSA

EA230211 Nairobi KNA in English 1550 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Nairobi, Mar 22 — The following is a statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon Elijah Mwangale on the killing of 17 Africans by South African police in Uitenhage on 21st March 1985.

The world has learnt with great shock and dismay of the brutal killing of 17 innocent and defenceless black African mourners who were attending a funeral in Langa Township near Uitenhage, South Africa, for people killed in that area recently. This unprovoked act by South Africa on a day currently observed throughout the world as the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination is yet another proof that the racist regime of Pretoria has no regard and respect for human life and dignity.

Yesterday, the people of Kenya joined the rest of the world to solemnly observe this day in tribute to the memory of those gallant but defenceless 69 men, women and children who lost their lives in Sharpeville, on 21st March 1960. Yesterday's massacre in South Africa is yet another milestone in the history of the liberation struggle in Africa but it leaves a very sad memory to the entire peace-loving nations of the world.

These latest acts of murder of black South Africans prove to the entire world that the South African Government has not changed and has no intention of reforming its apartheid policy and repressive measures against her population. These acts are also a true demonstration that the South African regime is striving hard, in a desperate manner, to further entrench and solidify its repressive measures on the struggling people of South Africa. We in Kenya cannot sit by and allow these acts of injustice and taking away of innocent lives to continue to be committed uncondemned.

The South African regime has continued to flout with impunity all calls and resolutions by the international community.

The government of Kenya strongly condemns the latest brutal murder of innocent and defenceless black people of South Africa by the racist police and feels that stringent measures must now be taken to stop South Africa from further destruction of lives.

The Kenya Government is instructing the Kenya permanent representative to the United Nations, in conjunction with the other OAU ambassadors in New York, to ask for an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss these latest killings and take appropriate measures.

Paper Views 'Constructive Engagement' With RSA

EA231010 Nairobi KENYA TIMES in English 23 Mar 85 p 1

[Editorial: "A Bitter Celebration"]

[Text] In bitter irony, the South Africans made the world mark Sharpeville Day in characteristic style — by again mourning the killing of yet more innocent people mowed down by the ruthless, relentless and inhuman apartheid machine.

We refer, sadly, to the 17 people (though the unofficial, probably more correct, figure was put at 43) who were killed when police opened fire on a funeral procession of about 3,000 Africans. The crime of the innocent dead and those injured is that they were headed for a white area, as if any bit of God's earth could ever be forbidden to any of his creatures.

The Pretoria regime through its callous brutality to the black people loses any claims to be part of the civilised human society. The acts of inhumanity stemming out of Pretoria, organized state brutality against a defenseless, innocent people, dim the historical tyrannies of Nero or Ivan the Terrible.

We have, like the rest of the peace-loving world, condemned the policies and actions of Pretoria before. We have been outraged before but this repeat performance of Sharpeville on Sharpeville Day leaves us stuck for words with which to describe. The perpetrations of this new outrage against humanity. [sentence as published]

How can we describe those whose hearts seem to be hewn out of a rock? Which brings us to the issue of what can be done to end the wicked system in South Africa. Constructive engagement, we repeat (because we have said it before in these columns), cannot be the way out. Constructive engagement simply enables the heartless system in Pretoria to continue mowing down the black people. Nothing constructive, anyway, has so far emerged from the constructive engagement policies.

As we mourn the recent dead, who died mourning the original Sharpeville massacre, we must turn to the forces that keep the Pretoria system alive and sustain its oppressive methods. The whole world must now ask itself whether the Pretoria regime would have continued to perform these heinous acts if it did not get support and encouragement from outside, in complete and arrogant disregard of the United Nations.

Humanity must now reconsider and ask all member states of the United Nations to adopt resolution 38/36A [as published] and impose mandatory sanctions against South Africa and isolate her economically. Those who refuse to do so should be seen for what they are, collaborators with the inhuman system.

Why should the Pretoria regime, with all these inhuman activities behind it, continue to be represented in the EEC, in the Atomic Energy Commission, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank?

The guns used in the daily murders in Pretoria are bought with blood money. This blood money comes to South Africa from the sweat of the black people, and from the so-called constructive engagement of the West which is very destructive for the black majority.

The real enemies of our African brothers in South Africa are those countries that continue to support the Pretoria regime. Change in South Africa will not come through trading with South Africa or constructive engagement. Rather constructive disengagement will open the way to changes, peaceful changes that grant the black majority equal rights.

SEYCHELLES

Soviet Union Donates Marine Diesel Fuel

AB231215 Paris AFP in English 0923 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Text] Victoria, March 22 (AFP) — A Soviet tanker, the *Alekseyevka*, is pumping 4,000 tonnes of marine diesel worth some 600,000 dollars into storage tanks in Victoria harbor as part of a Soviet gift to the Seychelles. The gift agreement in 1984 was for 7,500 tonnes of fuel and 130 tonnes of metal sheets, in all worth over two million dollars.

Under a previous agreement the Soviet Union delivered five million dollars worth of more expensive fuel, heavy equipment and cement over the past two years, also as gifts.

The latest consignemt being delivered was handed over in a short ceremony aboard the *Alekseyevka* where Youth and Defence Minister Ogilvy Berlouis and Ambassador Mikhail Orlov together opened the tanker's valves Thursday.

SOMALIA

President Meets Niger Minister, OAU Refugee Officials

EA261033 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpts] President of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] Challe Mohamed Siad Barre received Niger Justice Minister Elhadji Allele Habibou at the presidency yesterday evening. The Niger minister, who is on a brief visit to the country, delivered a letter and fraternal greetings to President Siad from President Seyni Kountche. Challe Siad and the special envoy discussed matters relating to further strengthening the existing friendly relations between Somalia and Niger. The president asked the envoy to convey his regards to the president, government, and people of Niger and wished him a safe journey.

SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre yesterday evening also received at the presidency members of the committee recently assigned by the OAU to look into the situation of refugees. Challe Siad briefed the committee on the efforts made by the government and people of Somalia to assist refugees who had fled from the massacre and oppression by the Abyssinian black colonialist regime. The president declared that the SDR on many occasions has endeavored to seek a sensible solution to this problem based on justice and the recognition of human rights, adding that it behooves Africa to take bold and sincere measures in solving the problems facing Africa. Challe Siad wished the committee success in its mission and a safe journey.

The head of the delegation, Mr Robert (Otongu), who is an envoy from the Ugandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome accorded to the committee in Somalia and for the assistance the committee received from the government and people of Somalia in carrying out its assignment. Mr Robert (Otongu) said the committee had visited refugee camps, talked with the refugees, and had witnessed the reality of their plight, adding that the committee had also ascertained the influx of a very large number of refugees into the SDR who needed assistance. He said the committee would make a report on its findings which, he was confident, would result in a sympathetic response. The committee comprises envys from Uganda and Senegal as well as representatives from the Secretariat of the OAU and the UNHCR.

UGANDA

Obote Reiterates Appeal for Sanctions Against RSA

LD240047 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 23 Mar 85

[Text] President Milton Obote has asked the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid to ensure that racist South Africa is denied all forms of international support. In a special message delivered to the chairman of the Special Committee on the occasion of the observance of the 25th anniversary of the Sharpeville massacre, at the UN Headquarters in New York, the president said apartheid must be dismantled because it cannot be (?reformed). In this regard, Dr Obote called upon the international community to rededicate itself to the struggle for the total elimination of apartheid and all forms of racial discrimination.

The president reiterated Uganda's stand that comprehensive mandatory sanctions must be imposed against South Africa in accordance with (?chapter seven) of the UN Charter.

Dr Obote rejected the so-called new constitutional reforms of the South African racist regime which, he said, are aimed at perpetuating apartheid and breaking the backbone of the united struggle of the South African people against racist oppression. He commended the people of South Africa for having massively rejected the sham constitutional reforms.

Dr Obote noted that apartheid South Africa perpetuates racist oppression and aggression because of the economic and military assistance she obtained from her external friends. The committee, he said, should (?prevail) on these friends of apartheid South Africa to discontinue rendering comfort to that regime. Dr Obote noted with satisfaction the emergence of (?free) South African movement in the United States, which has given impetus to the campaign against the current U.S. policy of constructive engagement towards South Africa.

CAMEROON

President Biya Addresses Party Congress

AB221255 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 0900 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Address by President Paul Biya to the fourth national congress of the Cameroon National Union Party, CNU, in Bamenda — live]

[Excerpts] Ladies and gentlemen and dear friends: Here we meet again in the stimulating warmth of the dear and brotherly rediscoveries which we have always transformed into joyous, solemn, and historic events. Apart from the legitimate happiness given us by this meeting which, every 5 years, enables us to come together again and apart from the emotion of remembering our past struggles and victories, we have always taken advantage of these meetings to pay a glowing tribute to our glorious party, the CNU, for its considerable contribution to the building of a united, modern, strong, and prosperous Cameroon. I would also like to say again how very proud we are to belong to the great family of the CNU and to assume in its name the missions it has assigned us and which are exciting and magnificent, especially because we know that they are imperative, urgent, and very difficult. The constantly increasing multiplicity and complexity of these missions compel us every 5 years to make this pause which is, however, neither a truce nor a respite. It is rather a moment of reflection that is necessary for the evaluation of our common endeavors in the service of our fellow citizens and of our dear and beautiful fatherland.

It is again time to measure the efforts accomplished, the results achieved, as well as what remains to be done and finished in the long and difficult path of nation building in which the CNU has assumed an important, eminent, and [word indistinct] part. This is certainly a great moment in our party's life as well as a great moment in the nation's life. I therefore express the wish that this congress may give all of us more faith in the future. May it strengthen in each of us the determination to preach with increasing conviction the noble ideals advocated by the CNU, to defend them with increasing vigor, and to illustrate them in an increasingly exemplary manner. I also express the wish that this congress may inspire each of us with more generosity toward our fellow citizens we have a mission to serve, particularly toward the teaming and dynamic Cameroonian youth on whom depends the future of this country — a youth in the interest of whom we must constantly make investments in order to maintain in them the desire for action and creativity.

The task is an immense one requiring enthusiasm and wisdom; it also demands as a matter of priority that we should demonstrate courage, (?one of the qualities) of the Cameroonian people, who in the past never failed to discharge their responsibilities under any circumstances and whose constantly affirmed desire for progress — a desire that is now more evident than ever — clearly demonstrates that our people lack neither wit nor audacity [words indistinct].

Like an ardent flame and more than ever before, may this congress nourish with its flame our sense of patriotism and shed its radiant light upon our deliberations as well as on our future actions.

Being aware of your militant spirit, devotion, and commitment, I have no doubt that each of you will work actively to ensure the success of this congress in order to render more worthy of esteem and respect the CNU's contribution to the greatness, prosperity, and happiness of our dear and beautiful country, Cameroon. [applause]

Dear Comrades, in exceptional conditions of mobilization and in the face of certain ideas aimed at diverting the party from its work, its traditions, and its mission, you reacted with all the force of your conviction as citizens against diversionist maneuvers that threatened to bring great perils to the nation in order to safeguard the authority of the state — which is the guarantee for democracy, legality, and the continued existence of the institutions of the Republic — as well as to safeguard the nation's chances for development in unity, peace, and national harmony. You then strongly called for the urgent summoning of the second extraordinary congress of our party. At this congress, you unanimously elected me chairman of the party on 14 September 1983. [long applause]

Dear Comrades, first of all, I am happy and proud to note that nothing was able to hinder the holding of our present congress. [applause] However, we were not spared any trouble, especially in the period preceding this congress: neither unpleasant surprises, emotions, disappointments, neither fire and sword, nor tears. [applause] The most painful trials in a nation's life have been imposed on us, including subversive activities, threats against state security, and maneuvers of division and destabilization we have experienced. These criminal plots reached their culmination in the senseless operation in which some disloyal soldiers — who were victims of pernicious intoxication and led astray by their own ambitions — tried to overthrow the Republic and seize power through the use of arms. Thus, everything was done to oppose the holding of the present congress, which everyone was sure would be held; anyone who paid any attention to the Cameroonian people was aware that this congress would constitute a major event in the continuation of the changes that occurred on 6 November 1982 and which so clearly revealed the deep aspirations of our people for a change [words indistinct].

The process of national renovation, made unavoidable by the people's unusual enthusiasm, was considered a dangerous development by a handful of individuals who were solely concerned with maintaining their privileges and satisfying their selfish ambitions.

The vigilance of our militants, the Cameroonian people's patriotism, and the desire for progress defeated all the operations aimed at compromising our development. It is obvious that the chances of this congress would have been compromised forever if this (?sordid) and criminal adventure had not been denounced, combatted, and crushed in an atmosphere of national mobilization, which clearly demonstrated the level of political maturity and

sense of citizenship of the Cameroonian people. [applause] This means that even if our present meeting should only enable us to congratulate ourselves, it would already provide us with a great motive of satisfaction and legitimate pride for all the militants of the CNU. Your very great courage in the hour of trial, your very firm conviction, and your very resolute commitment deserve, Dear Comrades, to be saluted by the ovation of the nation. [applause]

Besides, only those who were unaware of these qualities were taken by surprise by the sense of responsibility of the militants of the CNU, the patriotism of the Cameroonians, their loyalty to legality and to the republican institutions, their fidelity to our democratic options, and their commitment to national unity [words indistinct]. As far as we were concerned,, we remained confident and calm, for we were convinced that the militants of the CNU and the overwhelming majority of our fellow citizens would ignore the intoxication campaigns as well as foil the maneuvers of division and destabilization.

Dear Comrades, we are holding our present congress at the exact time prescribed by our party; we are thus demonstrating that despite the vicissitudes and contingent events, the action of the CNU is meant to be permanent, lasting, and fruitful. Supported by the zeal of its militants and the hopes of our fellow citizens, our party is demonstrating its vitality, its tenacity, and its loyalty to its commitments. It therefore intends to affirm more than ever before the continuity of the mission and its role in the nation. [applause]

Now that I am more aware of the specific situations and realities of each of our provinces as the president of the Republic, head of state and of the government, I have resolutely channelled all the national activities through the most suitable paths for the acceleration of our pace of development and the improvement of the living standard of our fellow citizens. I therefore prescribed urgent measures specially aimed at promoting infrastructures, revamping the economy — with priority being given to the rural economy — the improvement of our institutions with the aim of bringing the administration closer to the people, a policy of austerity in the management of public property and the exploitation of our natural resources, the moralization of the society aimed at promoting a national community freed from the evils of laxity, intrusion of business into politics, embezzlement, corruption, favoritism, and nepotism — in short, freed from everything that should be eliminated in order to build and maintain a prosperous society and especially to forge a Cameroonian community which is solidaristic in its efforts of development as well as in the sharing of the fruits of national growth.

Thus arises the need for a new order of priority which aims at achieving social justice and introducing equal opportunities for the various social categories of citizens through the solutions that we will be able to find for the problems of education, health, housing, urban planning, wages, social security, public transport, and public amenities.

From the external point of view, desirous to ensure Cameroon's prestige, we have never stopped giving our modest contribution to the maintenance of peace, the strengthening of international understanding, and the establishment of a new and more equitable international order which can satisfy the quest for liberty and fraternity throughout the world. Through an active presence, our diplomacy has constantly been practiced with the respect to our choices, that is, national independence, nonalignment, respect for territorial integrity, noninterference in the affairs of other states, peaceful coexistence, and unlimited cooperation. These are the bold outlines of the preoccupations that have guided the government's action.

I can say that for their part, the great majority of the Cameroonian people welcomed with enthusiasm the innovations that have been started or announced and have constantly supported them by encouraging me to persevere in their implementation and urging me to go forward in the direction of the hopes that have emerged within the national community.

Dear Comrades, the impetus thus given to all the nation's activities and which aroused hope for great and lasting changes had been strengthened by our party and had mobilized the militants of the CNU at the vanguard of all our struggles for work on the sites of new missions [words indistinct]. It could not be otherwise since there must be a continuation of frank and loyal collaboration between the government and the party while respecting the supremacy of the state and of the Constitution. To the great dismay of CNU militants and to the great disappointment of the Cameroonian people, however, this was unfortunately not the case! Through an erroneous reading or wrong interpretation of the Constitution and the resulting subsequent anachronic behaviors, some misunderstandings arose which certain people transformed into a crisis of authority between the president of the Republic and the national president of the party — a very ridiculous political conflict for a presidential regime like ours and for our system of ruling democracy. [applause]

When I became president of our country on 6 November 1982, I took the solemn oath before God and the Cameroonian people as the executive head to carry out the duties imposed on me by the Constitution, namely, to ensure respect for the Constitution, our independence and sovereignty, and the security and unity of the state, and to ensure the conduct of the public affairs. Since it was a sacred duty, I swore that I would never fail to discharge it. [applause]

In conditions where it seemed that national unity, state stability, and the democratic development of the institutions of the Republic might suffer from aggravation of certain ambitions and the use of prerogatives that the Constitution confers on the president of the Republic alone, and faithful to my commitments to the Cameroonian people, I took the necessary measures to safeguard republican legality. [applause] You know what followed. [applause]

The subversive maneuvers that came to light in June 1983 led to the discovery by the national security services of a plot against state security which I unfortunately had to report to the Cameroonian people on 22 August in a message to the nation. As one could expect, the emotions and anger of the Cameroonian people were great and were expressed throughout the nation strongly condemning the denounced criminal enterprises aimed at endangering the integrity of the state, undermining the very foundations of the nation — enterprises which were likely to compromise the national unity achieved through so much perseverance — and ruining the achievements and promises of our work of nation building. This sad episode was naturally considered by our compatriots as a conspiracy against the Cameroonian people and nation.

Therefore, in the name of the Cameroonian people, the accused were tried and sentenced in accordance with the laws of the Republic, and this was done with the objectivity and dignity that characterize our justice. [applause]

The CNU — which transcends all kinds of diversities and calls for the harmonization of these differences within it — is neither the property of one person, nor of a great personality, nor of one ethnic group. [applause] It is and must remain the burning and brilliant torch of the fraternal and indissoluble union of the Cameroonian people. [applause]

Dear Comrades, the tumultous history of [redacted] us many heart-rending examples of human communities which, although committed to progress and welfare and because they failed to ensure the perpetuity of their institutions, have been completely exposed to moral and material misery, subjugated to all sorts of ravages and deprived of all resources which could have saved them from the fatal process of their self-destruction.

The upheavals that marked the first year of my presidency have made more evident the dangers to which the nation could be exposed if the state — guarantor of the permanence of the authority of law, justice, freedom, and security — cannot prevail over private interests so that the Republic's institutions may cease to be a pawn in the hands of people with personal ambitions for power and of people with political lust, who must be hindered from making the nation prey to private individuals and pressure groups.

After the clarifications made during the sessions of the second extraordinary congress of the CNU and responding to the wishes of our compatriots expressed on that occasion, I deemed it useful, as the head of state, to propose to the National Assembly which approved it — a constitutional reform which in its essence confirms in an indefensible manner the sovereignty of the Cameroonian people and discourages all inclinations to confiscate political power. In the light of the unexpected events we have experienced and which were made possible by the confused appraisal of events caused by the way our institutions functioned in the past, it seemed good and sane for political life that in all circumstances, the holder of the post of president should derive his mandate from democratic legitimacy. Therefore, without the least hesitation, I also felt that I should propose to the Assembly — which voted it — a bill permitting a president of the Republic who has acceded to the supreme magistracy in conditions similar to those in which I became the head of state to carry out, if he deems it useful, anticipated elections. By so implementing the desire for open democracy which I announced during the second extraordinary congress of our party, I wanted to pay tribute to the majority of Cameroonian people who are solely responsible for, and masters oftheir destiny. [applause]

For the first time in the life of our young nation, the possibility of an open democracy permitting pluralism was given to Cameroonians who might desire to contest for political posts in the country without belonging to any political party and who, being members of the CNU, might not be selected for election by our party. In this context, having presented myself for election as the candidate of national renovation, the political program for which the CNU appointed me was overwhelmingly approved and this was an expression of massive national support for our new choices which have come to enrich the many positive achivements made in the task of nation building. [applause] The contract of confidence, solidarity, and loyalty thus sealed up at the polls and which invested the president of the Republic with all the titles of legitimacy and entrusted to him an official mandate, made possible the pursuance of the task of nation building under the best auspices and with more assurance and commitment in the rediscovered serenity. It also seemed that a more favorable climate for relaxation of political tension had been restored, an atmosphere in which the rancors could be eliminated and appeased.

Knowing the deep attachment of our compatriots to the respect of life, human values, and openness from which the Cameroonian people have constantly drawn its strength and greatness and, as the president of our country who is guided only by the desire of ensuring the supreme interest of the nation and by virtue of the powers conferred by the Constitution on the president of the Republic, I have decided to grant to those sentenced by the court the chance of finding again — in pardon and their own remorse — the path of reason and dignity as well as the respect owed to the republican legitimacy and to the Cameroonian people. By so doing, I expect to see all our fellow citizens tackle the urgent tasks demanded by the great and beautiful prospects of the national renovation and they should do this without delay and without allowing themselves to be distracted.

The majority of our fellow countrymen and CNU militants approved and supported my decision. I still have in mind today the various tributes paid me in the motions sent me on that occasion, and which were full of sincerity and patriotism.

Dear Comrades, it was our right to hope, after the painful lessons drawn from the incident, that each one of us would strive to preserve order, political stability, and security, in order to achieve the main objectives of the nation, in peace, unity and harmony. Unfortunately, we had failed to take into consideration the blindness, the lust for revenge, and the nostalgia of inward-looking people. Less than a month after the measures of appeasement that I judged necessary in the superior interest of the nation to heal the particularly cruel wounds, new and serious incidents took place.

On 6 April 1984, betraying the people, the Republic, and their duty, a few soldiers, whose intoxicated minds and ambition had made them oblivious of their mission, seized the institutions in order to overthrow the state and forcibly seize power. Cameroonians were taken by surprise by some unworthy traitors, at a time when trust and security had returned in those days of calm. Painfully wounded in their pride and civic conviction, they reacted with all the vigor of their patriotism against the wrong done to the Cameroonian nation, to the legal authority, and to the president they had democratically elected.

The national Army, whose varied membership illustrates national unity so well, fulfilled its duty with an efficiency which is an honor to itself, and to Cameroon, displaying grandly the proof of its courage, loyalty, and attachment to legality. [applause] In a way, it was the entire Cameroonian people who helped destroy the criminal and ambitious undertaking. Therefore, the victory is their victory; the victory of solid institutions and the victory of preserved national unity.

In fact, from generation to generation, one will, in regard to these sad events, essentially remember that the brave and loyal soldiers, and the citizens who helped them restore order, were mainly and solely Cameroonians; Cameroonians of all origins, without distinction of ethnic groupings, religious beliefs, or regional groupings. [applause]

Some patriotic Cameroonians, who are aware of their duty toward the nation, showed on this occasion their attachment to the institutions and to the one who embodies them, as well as their attachment to national unity.

The [word indistinct] of our fellow countrymen therefore proved clearly that no particular province, Cameroonian, or regional, could be blamed for this criminal adventure. It was merely a minority of individuals, maddened by their ambition and thirst for power, who were responsible for this action. [applause]

Dear Comrades, during the events I have just referred to, that is the events that preceded our second extraorinary congress, and those which bereaved the nation in April 1984, the CNU militants, for their part, either individually or in groups, guided by their hearts, duty, and patriotism, constantly assumed their responsibility with courage, and sometimes at the risk of their lives.

They deserve our sincere and warm congratulations. We must, however, agree, as each one of us must have noted and deplored, that in these particularly serious circumstances, our party was unable to display the full measure of its ability to frame and mobilize the masses. On these occasions, our party revealed more than weaknesses in its structures and in its functioning, as was apparent in its being swept off balance by the events, in its wait-and-see attitude, which was proof not only of lack of resolution, but also of manifest lack of organization. [applause]

It was therefore necessary to draw the lessons from this situation, and to prevent our party from dangerously sliding into a state of lethargy likely to paralyze it completely. As head of state, it was my duty to adopt the political, administrative, and military measures that the preoccupied Cameroonian people were calling for. As national chairman of our great party, I therefore called on the Central Committee to send delegations to meet the militants in order that, through open dialogue and acceptance of all contributions, the militants could frankly discuss the problems and future of the CNU.

It was the objective of the missions for the revival and revitalization of party activities, which made it possible, after 3 days of brotherly, responsible, and particularly enriching discussion, to stimulate the militancy of all, to restore faith in the party, and to strengthen the commitments that everyone made at the beginning of the New Deal Policy.

This national self-criticism, corresponding to the national calling of our party, contributed in any case to strengthening in the nation the conviction within the CNU that we are not afraid to criticize our actions and political system. No doubt, each one of us realized better the importance of thought in our constant desire to be always useful to our fellow countrymen, more efficient in our undertakings, and better-equipped as well, in our search for democracy.

But apart from this feeling of comfort that our meetings have always given us, what is more important today and tomorrow is the definition of the actions called for by the lessons drawn from the trial of truth that we imposed upon ourselves on that occasion.

It is our conviction that the concrete guarantee for freedom, security, and justice, the precious ingredient necessary for the stability of the institutions and for national unity, is discipline. It is also the condition for democracy. It is through disciplined citizens that one can have the image of a proud and responsible people. Therefore, we believe that it is in the respect of the rules and principles of democracy that it can be exercised most surely. Concerning the rules and the principles of this democracy which is dear to us, we can only find the best inspiration in our national realities and in our history.

We must make our compatriots rediscover the usefulness of the party in their daily life, within their community, in their districts, in the villages, and in the nation. [applause] To remain a party geared toward development, the CNU should be able to remain the framework for civic and political training as well as an instrument of economic, social, and culture values. [applause]

Dear Comrades, if we consider the catalyzing role of the party at all levels, we must therefore militate in it and further make it a sound family that respects and gives the example of moral values, a family that ensures lasting foundations for a noble civilization, a family that is concerned with saving the people from slavery, with uplifting their consciousness, with creating the conditions for their emancipation and their development, and with injecting into them an ideal that can be the best guarantor for their freedom, security, and welfare as citizens.

Therefore, we denounce the laxity, absenteeism, lack of professional conscientiousness, discipline, and objectivity, and very often the irresponsibility, that characterize the attitude of so many of our citizens, in particular the attitude of some civil servants and government agents whose behavior can ruin the citizen's confidence in his country's administration. [applause]

This must be stressed. Sometimes it is through the quality of relations between the citizens and the public services that the former believe in and adhere to government policies that are mapped out with the support of the party. This means that if the administration's services are poorly rendered, this can greatly influence the attitude of our compatriots toward our principles and our ideals. They can kill the enthusiasm of the citizens or the watchwords of the government to which the party adheres. They can cause dissatisfaction, disaffection, and demobilization.

We also condemn fiscal fraud, smuggling, illegal price increases, and all other illegal practices that tend to infringe upon the practice of social justice and for which , very often and unfortunately, some of our businessmen are known. [applause]

Dear Comrades, on the occasion of this congress, which gives us the opportunity to subject ourselves to a test of the truth, we have to make a sad observation. Some militants of the CNU — civil servants or government agents — either absent themselves from their duties or just sit behind their desk doing nothing. Some of the public services give poor reception to people. Among several citizens tried in court for embezzling funds and for other illegal means of enrichment — methods which are very often condemned — there are a few militants holding important posts within the party. These frauds are made possible because of the network of complicity between some civil servants and some businessmen. They are all equally guilty of corruption, even though they are militants of our great national party. [applause]

Within the ranks of the party, one can find militants or party officials who indulge in the abuse of their power and engage in corrupt practices. We also have within the ranks of the party people who have borrowed money from the banks and believe they should not pay back their debts. [applause] Through its ideals and the pertinence of its policies as well as the quality of its results, our party has won from our compatriots respect and political and moral authority which we must constantly be prepared to preserve.

Our party supports and encourages a diplomacy of active presence, aimed at peaceful coexistence, mindful of the efficiency of inter-regional organizations for economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation, in particular the organizations in Central Africa. It encourages a diplomacy aimed at strengthening the authority and the credibility of international organizations whose activities are geared toward the search for peace and justice in the world. Thus, we reaffirm our solidarity to the OAU [break in transmission] the total liberation of Africa and solutions to problems facing our continent. Deeply attached to human rights, we also reaffirm our commitment to the struggle against the ignoble policy of apartheid which we strongly condemn [applause] because it constitutes an abominable treachery to humanity.

Concerning human values, the strenghtening of conscience and the brotherliness of all the peoples of the world, we express our support to the lofty humanizing role of the UNESCO, as a specialized UN institution, to its program and its activities aimed at promoting the welfare of man in his search to consolidate his knowledge and his cultural identity. We also support the advent of a world order whose concern will be for freedom and justice. [applause]

As for the United Nations, we praise this organization, which is a free platform and a privileged place to express solidarity among all nations, big or small, without any hegemonic pretentions, any ambitions to dominate, and any expansionist inclinations.

We support a policy of authentic nonalignment that is in conformity with the geographical situation and the historical call of Cameroon as being the meeting place of all civilizations. This authentic nonalignment, in the present international context and in our mind, is the most suitable policy to demonstrate our concern for independence. It is also the policy most adapted to our desire for cooperation with all nations, a cooperation that respects our sovereignty, our personality, and our fundamental options.

Let us place great hopes in the promotion of small- and medium-scale enterprises, and small- and medium-scale industries, which seem to us to be the most solid basis for the future industrialization of Cameroon. These are indispensable links between the sectors of production, raw materials, and units of transformation of much greater dimensions. Small- and medium-scale enterprises, as well as small- and medium-scale industries, should in effect be able to satisfy the domestic demand and to supply us with finished or half-finished goods, the necessary resources to conquer foreign markets under the best conditions for competition, and, at the level of more important trade, for the equilibrium of our balance of trade.

We should also express our satisfaction with the increased means of assistance granted to the financial and donor organizations which participate in the development of small- and medium-scale enterprises and the new banking conditions which accord credit facilities to nationals through expanded facilities that are likely to further stimulate their activities. And after presenting serious and viable projects, they must respect their commitments and willingly fulfill their obligation toward financial institutions and the state.

This is also the time to laud the coming into force of a new investment code, which is more practical in its objectives and more precise in its criteria for implementation. If it does not jeopardize national or foreign private initiative in any sector, it favors more the setting up of enterprises under conditions that are more adapted to the demands of territorial administration and regional planning. It takes more fully into account the need for a harmonious development of urban and rural centers. It considers more our desire to see the reduction in the uneven distribution of economic activities in the country.

By further attracting foreign participation in our development effort, through a partnership with Cameroonian entrepreneurs, the new investment code offers other advantages which are of no

less importance. It permits the development of our industries on a creative basis of qualified and diversified employment. It creates more receptive conditions for new technology and modern management techniques. Finally, it favors the local transformation of our raw materials.

Dear Comrades, out of the raw materials that come from our soil, the most precious remains our agricultural production, which is the only way we can guarantee our self-sufficiency in food production, one of our chief priorities. World economic uncertainties, characterized by the constant deterioration of terms of trade to the detriment of countries with weak economies; the dwindling of development aid; adverse effects of natural calamities, of which drought and desertification have made us more determined to militate for a policy of safeguarding our food potential to protect us from the specter of hunger, which sows the terrors and horrors we have witnessed in the world. There are already reasons for us to be concerned. Our citizens who live in areas that are exposed to the most unfavorable climatic conditions are already painfully experiencing threats of shortages. Crops were devasted, replanting was impossible, and the cattle died.

A Cameroonian, wherever he resides or goes — either to work or to settle — must feel at home anywhere in this country. [applause] He is received as a Cameroonian, he is accepted and treated as a Cameroonian. He considers himself, thinks, and behaves as a Cameroonian. [applause] He is a Cameroonian and is equal to all other Cameroonians before the law, the state, and justice. He enjoys the same advantages and opportunities from public services. [applause] He has the same rights and duties in the task of nation building. [applause]

The efforts made to surpass one's achievements, to which the perspectives of the New Deal invite us, call on us to condemn and to fight with yet greater intransigence tribalism, favoritism, nepotism, and all sorts of discrimination capable of putting Cameroonians in opposite camps — the privileged on the high ground and the poor down in the valley. [applause]

A mentality and a spirit that are deeply Cameroonian can only compel one to surpass his achievements, and such an effort calls for a national integration that is confident, tolerant, conscious, and fraternal.

On 6 April 1984, despite the furious attacks by the forces of division, the institutions of the Republic remained firm and will remain firm as long as our unity is indivisible. [applause] What Cameroonians do to keep this unity indivisible can only be beneficial for the entire nation. The militants of our party, in particular, must never grow tired of spreading the message of unity. He will find in his everyday life the reasons and the arguments to preach national unity relentlessly.

Within the present context, the reasons and arguments are proven. It is also, and first of all, within the ranks of the party that the desire must primarily be expressed to replace the fundamental solidarity based on ethnicity or religion. In this way, we will gradually be able to surpass our ethnic differences and finally integrate them into what will become a nation assured that national unity is forever preserved and rendered irrevocable.

Dear Comrades, through the steps taken since 6 November 1982 and also through the points that I have just raised, I have designed with much more precision the guidelines for the establishment of the new society, which our party is called upon to construct within the framework of the new nation. This society sticks profoundly to the positive achievements of the national construction [words indistinct] in three cardinal principles: freedom in all its forms, the regulatory function of a strong and democratic state, and the duty of solidarity.

Already on several occasions, our party has affirmed its attachment to planned liberalism; the freedom to undertake, if it is to be channelled through a plan ensuring general interest, undoubtedly is directed at the stimulation of initiatives and creativity.

The freedom to undertake must express itself in an ethical context which the state is charged to make people respect. The state must not only be a compelling force leading to national construction and development, but must also be a regulating force capable of maintaining the necessary balance between groups and regions and safeguarding justice irrespective of social classes, because, in fact, our final aim — I said it — is to construct a society based on solidarity both in terms of efforts and sacrifice as well as in terms of advantages. I love such a society — very loyal to African traditions and culture. And we must remain loyal to African culture, that is to say, to ourselves. [applause]

In the final analysis, apart from development, our goal is to always be the masters of our destiny, to preserve our unique identity, and to increase our capacity to contribute to the establishment of a universal civilization. If I were to describe this new society, which must favor the full development of the Cameroonians, I would say it is a free communal society [applause] because it is full of the liberal spirit and draws warmth from the burning fireplace of common African life. [applause]

Closes Congress

AB251133 Yaounde Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Address by President Paul Biya to the closing session of the fourth national congress of the Cameroon National Union Party in Bamenda on 24 March — live in French]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, Dear Comrades: After 4 days of intensive and sustained reflection, after 4 days of lively and particularly fruitful debates held in an atmosphere of frank comradeship, serenity, and with a keen sense of our responsibilities, our deliberations are about to end.

Dear Comrades, I know how much sacrifice was imposed on each and every one of you, because though the past few days have been enriching, they have been tiring. Because our congress was shorter than the previous ones, we had to follow an accelerated tempo during our deliberations, which were more intense and required more constraint.

However, you spared no efforts, and neither did you spare your health at times. Each of you contributed actively, remarkably, and in a punctual and laborious manner to the smooth deliberations and eventually to their resounding success. So much self-denial and devotion are proof of your patriotism, your militant fervor, your faith in the fundamental options of the New Deal, and your confidence in the future of our beloved and beautiful country, and I extend my most sincere and my warmest congratulations to each and every one of you. [applause]

I also congratulate all those who took part at various levels in the organization of this congress and who sat in the various commissions and subcommissions. They are the discreet but omnipresent, efficient, and indispensable architects of all that was successfully realized. [applause] Their achievements deserve much praise since the conditions under which they worked were not always commensurate with the problems they had to face, with their willingness to serve, or their great availability.

We hope that our many guests, who came to express their sympathy, their friendship, and their solidarity with us in our nation-building experiment, will go back with the memory of a happy people who left no stone unturned to make their stay in Bamenda pleasant; [applause] a people who allowed them to witness a great moment of our history; a people who took them into their confidence so they could see our efforts being made in a spirit of unity, freedom, hard work, and justice. May they convey to their respective peoples, for whom they proved worthy delegates and observers, our deepest gratitude and tribute as well as our desire to pursue cooperation and our message of brotherhood and peace.

Lastly, I would like to thank the people of Mezam Division, the people of the Northwest and West Provinces, without whose hospitality we would not have reached the gratifying results of our deliberations. On behalf of you all, I express to them our deepest gratitude, our satisfaction, and our warm congratulations. [applause] I would also like to tell you how much I appreciate the encouraging words of support in your motions of congratulations. I thank you very sincerely for that. [applause] Allow me to assure you that I will endeavor to work for the promotion of the new Cameroonian society, which our militants and fellow countrymen have been praying for wholeheartedly.

Dear Comrades, beyond the regular convening of our congress, exceptional events that marked the life of our party and our nation since our last meeting in Bafoussam made it necessary for us to ask ourselves questions about the ability of the Cameroon National Union to provide appropriate responses to the new demands of the nation-building effort and to the future preoccupations of the Cameroonian people. [applause] In response to this concern and expressing the desire of the vast majority of our militants and compatriots who sent you to represent them, you asked unanimously that the name of our party be changed.

Our congress took note of this. The Cameroon People's Democratic Movement [CPDM], [applause] since it should be called by its name, is therefore being given birth to here and now in Bamenda, this 24th day of March, 1985. [applause]

The fervent wish of all the nation's life forces to have a significant change initiated within the party in order to give expression to the new hopes ushered in at the dawn of the national New Deal has been fulfilled. These new hopes compel us henceforth to propose to Cameroonians a new way of living together, a new understanding of their rights and commitments, a new conception of political militantism, a bolder march toward national integration, which is the pledge of peace, stability, and prosperity. It is consoling that the need for this change was felt and expressed during the current sessions. Let us boldly demonstrate that the concern for openness, liberalization, and democratization, which characterizes the New Deal policy, is henceforth a constant factor in Cameroonian political life.

Henceforth, as a result, the party identifies itself with the idea of rallying and progress. It is open to all national sensitivities and receptive to all ideas and opinions likely to positively contribute to the happy realization of the task of nation building. If, therefore, any honest Cameroonians — no matter who they be, where they are, or what they do — want to take the path of the future in solidarity with their other compatriots, in total respect for the laws and institutions of the Republic, then here is the rallying ground for the Cameroonain people. [applause] They will have a field of action commensurate with their competence, generosity, and ambition for the nation.

Such an ambition implies that the party should be able to count on level-headed and frank militants — selfless, open, and tolerant militants who are critical of themselves. Such an ambition implies dialogue, consultations, and loyal collaboration in civic discipline expressive of the desire for a constructive democracy and the seriousness of a responsible people.

Dear Comrades, while stressing the great need for an assessment expressing more resolutely our desire to move forward, it also became necessary for you to give a more mobilizing motto — the new dynamism of the entire national activity. Unity, Progress, Democracy: This is therefore the new CPDM's motto. [applause]

In the first place, it demonstrates our desire for unity — a unity which is constantly strengthened, heading slowly but surely toward an authentic national integration.

It also demonstrates our resolution to construct a modern Cameroonian nation, capable of promoting individual and collective well-being through the equitable distribution of the fruits of our economic growth, to expand justice, and to safeguard the security of the citizens themselves, their properties, and their rights.

Finally, it confirms our irrevocable option for a Cameroonian society where the citizen can effectively, by way of a participatory, active, and conscious life, preside over his future and that of the nation.

The emblem, which symbolizes such great ambitions, must also be the very strong support for our ideals of solidarity, unity, and progress guided by the constant light and the burning flame of our patriotism and our militant commitment. [applause] Therefore, may this plaque which is unveiled to the full — the

guardian spirit of our people - permit the total renovation of our party so as to make it not only a great political movement, but also an instrument of economic, social, and cultural development, and also a moral force necessary for the triumph of the ideals of the New Deal. [applause]

Also, may the CPDM promote this society of communal liberalism for which we wholeheartedly wish — I mean a movement of a community of free men and women who are deeply rooted in their territory, confident in the future, independent masters of their destiny, the proud builders of Cameroon, today and tomorrow. [applause]

Long live the CPDM! [applause] Long live Cameroon! [applause followed by anthemn]

I declare the deliberations of the Bamenda congress closed. Thank you. [applause]

CHAD

Ndjamena on New Paris-Based Opposition Movement

AB251355 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Summary] "Chad's enemies have not laid down their arms. What is worse is that these enemies are Chad's own sons. They have just created in Paris a movement called Chadian Democratic Front, FDT, with the purpose of opposing President Hissein Habre's regime and they call on the Western countries to bring pressure on the Chadian head of state." The FDT, which is led by Negue Djogo, is said to be aiming to oppose both the Chadian Government and what it hypocritically calls the Bardai clique.

The Front denounces what it calls the inability of the Transitional National Union Government to regroup Chadians, its inclination to encourage selfish private interests that are harmful to national unity, its lack of will in the defense of Chad's interests, and so on. "Over the past few months, groups have been formed and dissolved according to the wishes of imperialism, which has been operating with the same actors, the same Chadians who have always helped others divide and occupy our country."

"Chadians are now at a decisive turning point in their country's history." At the moment, some concrete, patriotic, and nationalist actions are being taken at the national level in favor of the rediscovered peace. All Chadians are now aware of the changes taking place in their country. The president's recent historic visit to the southern part of the country has completely contradicted all the false allegations, all the delaying tactics, and all the campaigns of intoxication. "This visit has placed the government of the Third Republic within the true context of the search for peace in the country and Chadians appreciate, in this calm atmosphere, the redeeming actions [actions salvatrices] of the president of the Republic, El-Hadj Hissein Habre."

"The so-called leader of the FDT belonged in the past to the ghost-like National Liberation Army, which was created out of nothing to serve the cause of Libya. He now claims to lead the FDT. Has he suddenly become more patriotic than before? The answer is, obviously, no!"

"Aware of the real nature of these small groups of people, the Chadians — who are truly attached to the national cause — will be able to foil these sordid maneuvers. The more the government of the Third Republic is prepared for national reconciliation, the more it is prepared to resolutely oppose anything that may disorganize the national resistance against the occupation forces."

FDT Official, Government Envoy on New Front

LD230024 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpts] A new development in the Chadian affair: After a meeting in Paris, four organizations in the opposition have just formed a joint front called the Chadian Democratic Front.

This morning, Radio France journalist Edouard Dors interviewed Jean Alingue, former ambassador in Paris, and also delegated by the four signatory organizations:

[Begin recording] [Alingue] The Chadian Democratic Front has been created after the following situation in Chad: First, the deadlock in the political situation caused by the intransigence of Ndjamena and Bardai, which do not open up any prospect of dialogue; second, we note that (?the splitting up) of various organizations of the opposition does not present a serious alternative which answers the aspirations of the Chadian people, that is, peace and democracy. This Front will be a rallying center which will allow a national burst of energy to put an end to the dictatorship and the current de facto partition of Chad. The Front's role will be to bring all the Chadian parties to dialogue. The Front's action will be to (?make) national and international public opinion (?aware) of the Chadian tragedy, bringing support to our southern Codos brothers and to the center and eastern center fighters.

[Dors] Do you agree on holding a fresh reconciliation conference on Chad in Brazzaville, or elsewhere? Do you set any conditions for taking part in such a reconciliation conference?

[Alingue] We have no preconditions. We have always been for negotiations and dialogue. Brazzaville was chosen by the OAU and we support Brazzaville inasmuch as this is where the first meeting was held, and we are willing to go there even tomorrow provided the Congolese authorities commissioned by the OAU suggest a date.

[Dors] You are not demanding, as some do, that Hissein Habre comes to this conference, as the head of a movement, and gives up his current prerogatives as a head of state?

[Alingue] We have no demands. We think Hissein must sit at a table and we should talk about the Chadian problem.

[Dors] The first four signatory organizations in this Chadian Democratic Front chose General Djogo as their president. Why?

[Alingue] Gen Djogo fights for peace and democracy in Chad. All his previous actions have shown that clearly, even when he was already chief of staff, general of the Chadian Armed Forces, when he was a minister, or even recently, as the chief of staff of the GUNT's [Transitional National Union Government] National Liberation Front. All his actions meet the aspirations defended by the Chadian people, and we honestly think that as the head of our front, which is seeking a political path, the path of negotiations in Chad, he meets this profile perfectly. [end recording]

The reaction of the Ndjamena regime is not hostile. On the contrary, interviewed by Charles Lescaut, the Chadian ambassador in Paris, Mr Allam-Mi, thinks that everything that goes against the Libyan presence in Chad is, in the end, a good thing:

[Begin Allam-Mi recording] The Chadian Government can only be pleased about all the groups that might facilitate the reconciliation process because, for the government, national reconciliation is a basic objective [words indistinct] daily on the ground. I cite as an example the recent visit to the south by President Hissein Habre. We hope this group will be founded on regionalist basis but, judging by the names of the signatories, we cannot dismiss this possibility. There is also good reason — and one must not forget this, after all — to be pleased with Gen Djogo's split from GUNT and the Libyans. Do not forget that, so far, officially at least, he has been chief of staff of the ghostly National Liberation Army. [end recording]

Finally, to close this Chadian file, here is an interesting statement by the French defense minister, interviewed this morning by our colleague. Charles Hernu expressed mixed feelings on Chad:

[Begin recording] [Hernu] We are extremely vigilant. We observe, we monitor what is happening. We are in such a situation that nothing that might happen in the north of Chad, where there are groups, both pro-Goukouni and Libyan groups, we are very careful about this. [sentence as heard]

[Unidentified reporter] Are the Libyans still in the north of Chad?

[Hernu] There are some, of course.

[Reporter] Despite the fact that it was a mutual agreement; the French will go if all the Libyans go. So the French left and the Libyan soldiers stayed.

[Hernu] Some Libyans may have returned, in smaller numbers than is thought, but in larger numbers than is advisable. This is why I said we are being extremely vigilant. [end recording]

GABON

Congo Leader Visits, Comments on Summit, Chad

AB251644 Dakar PANA in French 1010 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Libreville, 25 Mar (AGP-GAB/PANA) — On his way back home from Lome, where he took part in the conference of heads of state of member countries of the Air Afrique multinational airline company, Congolese President Denis Sassou-Nguesso arrived in Libreville on Sunday afternoon for a 24-hour friendly visit to Gabon.

Questioned on the deliberations of the conference in Lome, the Congolese head of state expressed satisfaction with the results reached at the sessions and recalled that the Air Afrique company had just gone through a crisis period due to the world economic situation. "It was then necessary that, at the highest level, we take appropriate measures" to redress the situation, he added.

Concerning Chad, Mr Sassou-Nguesso said that his country had continued its efforts toward Chadian reconciliation. "We are always in contact with the African heads of state and all the Chadian sides involved in the conflict and hope that a day will come when the Chadian leaders realize that it is necessary, for their people and their country, that they achieve reconciliation," he concluded.

The Congolese head of state returns home late on Monday morning.

BURKINA FASO

Sankara Returns; Air Afrique Practices Criticized

AB251740 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpts] President Thomas Sankara yesterday returned home from Lome where he attended the summits of heads of state of African and Mauritian Common Organization, and of Air Afrique. Our special correspondent, Richard Yameogo, once again reports:

[Begin recording] The more important of the two summits was obviously the fourth summit meeting of heads of state of member-countries of the Air Afrique multinational airline company, which ended last Saturday in Lome.

All the heads of state at the conference recognized that there has been crisis at Air Afrique and it was necessary to find solutions to it. However, the ways to reach these solutions constituted the stumbling blocks of the discussions which were held in camera.

For some of them, the crisis at Air Afrique is the result of the recession affecting the world economies, which is partly true. They further argued that the crisis was caused by the strike of the flight technicians last September. On this precise point there was misunderstanding, and this should not make us unable to see the woods from the trees. In fact, Air Afrique's problems have their causes within the management and with those charged with managing it.

It should be recalled that Air Afrique spends annually about 100 million CFA francs on the telephone bills for the residence of its managing director. In addition, since the head office of the company was transferred from Yaounde to Abidjan until now, following Cameroon's withdrawal from Air Afrique, in the early seventies, the Ivory Coast has not ratified the headquarters-location agreement. This headquarters-location agreement, when ratified, should enable the company to get exemption from taxes at all levels — fiscal and customs — and this would make it possible for the company to save money. In default of this agreement, the Ivory Coast realizes annually a profit of about 3 billion at the expense of the company since Air Afrique leases premises for its operations. Concerning the premises leased to Air Afrique, they were recently renovated, which cost about 1 billion to the company. The repairs were carried out by a company belonging or dealing with the company's managing director, Ahoussou Koffi.

In fact, there are other causes for the crisis, notably excessive recruitment of personnel, and the arrears owed by some member-countries. For others, the strike by the flight technicians revealed a lot of things. It revealed widespread laxity and the exclusive preoccupation with business deals of some officials to the detriment of the company. [end recording]

IVORY COAST

President Houphouet-Boigny Returns From Lome

AB252036 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Excerpt] After participating in the Air Afrique summit in Lome, the head of state returned to Abidjan late this morning. President Houphouet-Boigny immediately sent a message of gratitude to his Togolese host, General Gnassingbe Eyadema.

Assembly Authorizes Legal Action Against Dioulo

AB251420 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The National Assembly Bureau, at its meeting this morning which was convened and presided over by the National Assembly president, unanimously decided to authorize the attorney general of the Abidjan Appeals Court to take legal action against Emmanuel Dioulo, a parliamentarian, on the charges leveled against him in the new BNDA [National Agricultural Development Bank] suit filed against him in the court of summary jurisdiction. This decision of the bureau of our parliament will thus enable the court to evaluate the nature of the charges and acts leveled against Mr Emmanuel Dioulo, that is, swindling, abuse of confidence, embezzlement of securities, and distribution of fictitious dividends, which are punishable by the penal law. Before the decision of the National Assembly Bureau, President Henri Konan Bedie outlined the framework of the intervention of the parliamentary bureau.

[Begin Bedie recording] We have to give our opinion on the admissibility of the request made by the attorney general within the framework of the law and in consideration of the reported acts that gave rise to this request. We do not create events; we take note of them as a case that legally falls within the jurisdiction of our organ, the National Assembly Bureau.

Apart from what has been said earlier, the present case calls for an administrative and legal analysis. From the legal point of view, you have the opportunity for timely knowledge of the developments in the suit between the BNDA and the Cogexim [General Imports-Exports Company] and the ups and downs that have marked the judicial proceedings on this affair — for which the temporary outcome was reached on 28 March 1985. For his part, the attorney general, in the interest of justice and, we think, in the interest of the person in question, demanded the authorization for legal action, without which the truth cannot come to light.

Therefore, it is a question of lifting an exceptional obstacle in the way of justice under conditions expressly determined by the basic law: the Constitution of the Republic of the Ivory Coast. The lifting of this obstacle does not in itself constitute either a punishment or a political act but an administrative decision that

will enable justice, the mainstay of the social edifice, to take its course. Moreover, it enables the parliamentarian in question to submit himself to his country's justice and, as a supreme act, to defend his honor, dignity, and interests. This is an occasion to remember that a parliamentarian, who has the duty of making the law, is not above the law. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Proposed LAP Files Response to Objectors

AB222008 Monrovia ELWA in English 1710 GMT 22 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The proposed Liberian Action Party [LAP] today filed their resistence in a People's Monthly Probate Court to the objection filed recently against their documents for probation by a group of citizens from lower Grand Gedeh County.

The resistence is further quoted as saying that the matter in question was investigated by the Special Elections Commission [Secom] and was found to have no magnitude or truth, adding that the committee was denied in various pronouncements of Secom.

In another development, today's edition of the *EXPRESS* newspaper in Monrovia quotes sources close to the objectors to the documents of the LAP as saying they have, instead, mandated their legal counsel to pursue and perfect their appeal before the Supreme Court. Following the objection, head of state Doe appealed to citizens to withdraw their bill of objection. Dr Doe said such magnanimous act on their part would help a greater atmosphere of political stability in the country.

Israeli Experts Visit, Discuss Investment

AB241457 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Two Israeli experts are here to hold discussions with government officials for possible investment in the country. The experts, (Anwarn Bendvie), land development consultant, and (Lazar Frends), development and construction engineer, arrived here a week ago to present investment proposals to the government. The experts have already held talks with Foreign Minister T. Ernest Eastman and Agriculture Minister Joseph Boakai, as well as officials of the public and private sectors. Mr (Bendvie) comes from the Israeli-based multinational company, Agridev, while Mr (Frends) is the proprietor of a construction and development corporation in Jerusalem.

NIGERIA

Idiagbon Says Government To Increase Border Security

AB252040 Paris AFP in English 1342 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Lagos, March 25 (AFP) — Nigeria is to increase the number of its security stations on its borders in collaboration with neighboring states in an effort to halt smuggling, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Tunde Idiagbon said.

Nigerian authorities have cited smuggling as the main reason for the decision in April last year to close the country's borders, a move which has caused serious economic problems for neighboring states that rely on trade with and through Nigeria.

Maj Gen Idiagbon, number-two in the Nigerian military government, said in a state radio interview yesterday that joint patrols had been undertaken with neighboring countries to check smuggling along Nigeria's vast frontiers. A Nigerian ministerial committee was working on a report to regulate border trading, he added.

Maj Gen Idiagbon also said that the Federal Commerce and Industry Ministry was planning to allocate import licences on a quarterly basis in line with foreign exchange availability in a move aimed at spacing imports of essential goods. Turning to the problem of unemployment, he added that additional import licences were being granted for raw materials to enable factories forced to shut down or producing at reduced capacity to resume normal operations. Maj Gen Idiagbon went on to say that the crime rate in Nigeria had fallen, with the exception of the capital, Lagos. He added that the urban police force had been enlarged and provided with more weaponry to deal with the situation.

Priorities of National Plan

AB251747 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] There will be a deliberate design to make the Fifth National Development Plan focus on programs that will boost the economy. This will be in the areas of agriculture and industry. The chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Major General Tunde Idiagbon, disclosed the government's intentions yesterday in a Radio Nigeria monthly program "Matters of the Moment." He said the government was going to be very mindful of the nation's population and the demands of social and economic services when formulating the fifth plan. On efforts to reduce unemployment, the chief of staff said that government had embarked on a number of programs to achieve the objective. These include the granting of import licenses to raw materials for local industries so that they could go back into full production and recall retrenched workers.

Minister Wants Bigger Portuguese Role in Development

AB252139 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Nigeria has invited Portugal to participate in her economic development, particularly in the areas of agriculture, deep-sea fishing, and manufacturing. The minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun, made the call today in Lagos while exchanging views with the Portuguese ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Rui Fernando Ferreira, who paid him a courtesy call. Chief Adigun expressed dissatisfaction with the present arrangement between Nigeria and Portugal's textile industry, which he described as one of the best in the world. He stressed that the industry was one area for possible cooperation between the two countries.

Responding, Mr Ferreira praised the Federal Government's efforts to revamp Nigeria's economy.

Participation in Brazzaville Conference on Namibia Set
AB221155 Lagos NAN in English 1130 GMT 22 Mar 85

[By Lawrence Ukwu]

[Text] New York, March 22 (NAN) — Nigeria will participate in an international seminar on the intensification of international action for the immediate independence of Namibia, scheduled to open in Brazzaville, Congo, on Monday, sources close to [words indistinct] Council for Namibia, said in New York yesterday.

The New York correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) reports that other participants at the seminar, which lasts five days, include Cyprus, Liberia, the Soviet Union and representatives of SWAPO.

The seminar is expected to examine South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia and the racist regime's refusal to implement the UN plan for the independence of Namibia, as contained in Security Council Resolution 435. The participants are also expected to examine in depth the impediments to the implementation of the UN plan for Namibia's independence and seek practical measures to mobilise further action at the international and local levels for the immediate independence of Namibia.

The seminar is in keeping with last year's UN General Assembly resolution which authorised the Council for Namibia to conduct seminars, hearings and workshops in order to obtain relevant information on all aspects of the situation in Namibia.

Lagos on UK Firm's Attempts To Destabilize Oil Price
AB251844 Lagos International Service in English 1630 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Viewpoint]

[Text] It is general knowledge that a certain interest group has been scheming over the years to destabilize the OPEC. At the forefront of this campaign to break up the OPEC is Britain, which has tried in vain to use its North Sea oil to achieve this objective. Britain produces from its North Sea oil wells the light crude which is similar in quality to Nigeria's Bonny Light. The oils of both countries are therefore in direct competition in the market, but Britain is not a member of OPEC, which sets limits to the production levels of its member and also determines the prices at which various grades of oil are sold. The quota system and price structure were adopted by the OPEC in its efforts to clear the glut and stabilize the global oil market.

However, the British National Oil Corporation, BNOC, sought to use the (?simple) advantage of Britain's nonmembership of the OPEC to frustrate (?prices). First, it stepped up production each time OPEC cut back on its total output with the consequence that the oil market has remained glutted. Then it tried to precipitate a price war by frequently reducing the price of British oil below that of OPEC. Somehow, the OPEC has been able to weather these plots by Britain and its allies.

But the BNOC appears to have been cut in its own web of intrigue and the British Government has therefore decided to scrap it. The situation is that the BNOC has been very vulnerable to its own pricing decisions. Each time it reduced the price of British oil, with intent to undercut OPEC members, the BNOC succeeded only in lowering prices in the spot markets and when that happened, it lost its own customers to the cheapest spot markets.

This is why BNOC had to sell about 800,000 barrels of oil per day at a loss on the spot market last year. And throughout last summer, it has lost some 70 million pounds as a result of the unstable oil market which it helped to create and sustain. As Nigeria's petroleum and energy minister, Professor Tam David-West, has observed, Britain has no other option than to wind up BNOC's loss-making operations.

The contradictory situations between market forces and government policy in which the BNOC was caught has been a lesson to all detractors of OPEC. It is clearly in their interest to cooperate with OPEC in a bid to wipe out the glut and stabilize the oil market.

DAILY SKETCH: U.S. Encourages RSA Intransigence
AB231005 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The *DAILY SKETCH* condemns the apartheid South Africa police for killing 40 defenseless blacks while attending the funeral of their colleagues recently. The paper says the killing has betrayed the regime as an incorrigible government that is impervious to reason. The *SKETCH* explains that the United States and other Western nations are actively encouraging South Africa in the intransigence. The paper urges the liberation movements to step up their activities.

ANGOLA

ANGOP Questions Veracity of UNITA Communiques

MB251940 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 25 Mar 85

[ANGOP editorial: "To Turn the Tables"]

[Text] Lately, the propaganda channels working for the UNITA puppet group have been engaging in an unusual activity, issuing more of the so-called war communiques and divulging astounding military victories of the UNITA guerrilla forces. The sensationalist press — the information channels recruited and paid for by the CIA and the Bureau of State Security [BOSS], and the already known echo chambers of Washington interests, which some the European governments have been turned into — regularly feed international public opinion with the latest news on what they call the civil war in Angola. This is revealed in dreamy puppet communiques and the frequent declarations and professions of faith of their leaders.

An alert and dispassionate observer who kept track of the UNITA successes announced by the CIA and BOSS specialists over the past year would easily conclude that the puppets have killed more than the total number of soliders in the Angolan Army, killed twice the number of Cuban internationalists stationed in our country, and destroyed three times the number of helicopters at the service of the Angolan Air Force, not to mention the thousands of prisoners that only exist in the fertile and well-trained minds of the specialists in propaganda and disinformation from Washington and Pretoria.

But the reality on the ground is very different. Numerous journalists and diplomatic observers who have visited us, including special envoys from the U.S. State Department, will have increasing difficulty in silencing the public laughter when they listen to new war communiques. These communiques, invariably signed by the lackey Savimbi, echo new and resounding victories and announce hundreds of additional dead, injured, and captured defense and security forces members and Cuban internationalists, the shooting down of more planes and helicopters, or the occupation of some villages and cities.

The reality is truly very different. The truth is that our defense and security forces have intensified the annihilation and pursuit operation against the puppet gangs. The truth is that the counterrevolution is losing ground and its initiative with the tribal propaganda it is broadcasting among the populations of the center and south of the country. Victorious operations of the Peoples Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola are often documented on the ground either by the national press or by unbiased correspondents and special envoys of the international press. The declarations taken from the prisoners and the ever-increasing numbers of ex-UNITA supporters who have surrendered to the defense and security forces are conclusive — the puppets have begun to disintegrate and it is difficult for their bosses to support them with untruthful propaganda about accomplishments and victories on the ground without incurring the risk of being ridiculed, as has happened recently.

Up until now it has been easy for the propaganda machine working for UNITA and the interests that it represents to transform the massacre of a civil population in a village, (Quimbu), into a victorious clash of the anti-Angolan forces over FAPLA and the Cuban internationalist troops. It has been relatively easy to present periodic acts of sabotage against some economic and social targets spread throughout Angola as examples of the effective implantation on the ground of the puppets, which in reality does not exist. The systematic use of untruths and the manipulation of international public opinion through the issuing of news which does not correspond to the reality of the facts has its own dangers, and sooner or later the tables are turned.

The Angolan Government has more important worries than rejecting UNITA war communiques, but, as the old adage says, it is easier to catch a liar than a limping person. When this happens, the magnitude of the ridicule will make those who broadcast the untruthful propaganda blush and, in particular, those who give them shelter and are used as an echo chamber. Two examples will illustrate the justness of our reasoning, and show that the truth is with us:

First, after the massacres of Calomboloca and Botomona, in which innocent civilians were killed, mainly old men, women, and children, the so-called war communiques signed by the lackey Savimbi were divulged by the Portuguese press and some others of the Western press with the usual headlines. They all echoed one more resounding victory by the bandits in their clash against FAPLA soldiers and the Cubans. They said that dozens of Angolan soldiers and Cuban internationalist troops were killed and tons of war materiel were seized. But the reality on the ground was very different. The truth was amply divulged in undeniable images broadcast by the People's Television of Angola and freely verified by the international press correspondents accredited in Luanda. The dozens of dead FAPLA soldiers and Cubans turned out to be children, women, and elderly peasants, and the tons of war materiel seized were nothing more than the belongings of the people, which were plundered and stolen. It is clear that the unbiased [as heard] Lisbon press and others working for imperialist propaganda silenced the true facts because this is not of interest to their bosses.

Second, the incident which recently occurred at Lubango airport with Boeing 737 from Angolan Airlines [TAAG] was immediately and miraculously transformed into a spectacular military victory of the puppets. According to puppet Savimbi's communique promptly distributed in Lisbon, Pretoria, and Washington, the TAAG Boeing was shot down by UNITA missiles and totally destroyed, and there were high-ranking officials of the MPLA, government, and the Angolan Armed Forces on board. This time the CIA and BOSS specialists working for UNITA had gone too far in their untruthful propaganda, or they had completely lost their heads. The ridicule was prompt. Representatives of the English insurance company and the American firm Boeing were already in Angola and dismissed the resounding UNITA victory. However, the puppet bosses ended by sending a timid denial and by reigning in their lackys for the diatribe which covered them in ridicule.

The echo arrives from the South African press. In a dispatch from its correspondent in Washington, Simon Barber, entitled United States Doubts Latest UNITA Claim, the 6 March edition of the newspaper *RAND DAILY MAIL*, which is published in Johannesburg, cites U.S. State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb as questioning the veracity of this well-known war communique because, as he said: We understand the plane was slightly damaged after having slid in a puddle. The South African journalist stresses that there is no record of the State Department having ever questioned UNITA declarations before. Concluding his dispatch, the *RAND DAILY MAIL* correspondent says that Angolan analysts in Washington interpret the readiness by UNITA to claim credit for an unverified action as suggesting that UNITA is in an ever-increasing state of despair over the lack of victories and it has no other alternative but to invent them. Later documentation, photographs, and images and statements from the Boeing and insurance company experts have reestablishhed the truthfulness of the facts and heaped ridicule on General Savimbi and the propaganda and the BOSS and CIA disinformation machine.

These are just two examples, two clear and undeniable facts, which illustrate the old adage that it is easier to catch a liar than a limping person.

So we will not be surprised that the regular sabotage attack by an isolated puppet group of an electrical supply line from Cambambe to Luanda, 130 km from Luanda, which the defense and security forces promptly repaired, was presented in the famous so-called war communiques of the cperetta general as a victorious great attack against the capital.

There are not many doubts that the tables are being turned.

UNITA Claims Planting Hotel Bomb, Cutting Power

AU241345 Paris AFP in English 1330 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Lisbon, March 24 (AFP) -- The Angolan rebel organisation UNITA said today it had exploded a bomb in a hotel in the town of Huambo, killing 75 people.

UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) said 11 Cubans, nine Bulgarians and officers of the Angolan Armed Forces were among the victims of the blast at the Almirante Hotel on March 16. The bomb had been placed in the hotel by "clandestine cells" of UNITA, a communique said.

However the Angolan news agency ANGOP, received here, only said that some 50 people, including three children, had been injured in the blast, although the seven-storey hotel had been partially destroyed.

The agency said the bomb had been left by a group of five armed "thieves", who had been immediately arrested.

In another communique, UNITA also claimed the destruction last Thursday of 11 pylons on the power line supplying the Angolan capital of Luanda from the Cambambe Dam.

The communique added that 15 Angolan Government soldiers and four Cubans had been killed by mines under their vehicles during the same operation.

Luanda radio said last Friday that the capital had been deprived of water and electricity as a result of UNITA sabotage.

It is the third time since last October that UNITA has claimed responsibility for an attack on the power line between Luanda and Cambambe 200 kilometres (125 miles) away.

COMOROS

Government Denies Nation Transit Point for Arms

AB252047 Paris AFP in English 1701 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Moroni, March 25 (AFP) -- The government of Comoros has again denied allegations that the Indian Ocean island state was serving as a transit point for arms shipments to anti-government rebels in Mozambique.

A communique issued by the Foreign Ministry here said the charges were "baseless" and reiterated that Comoran territory "is not involved in any way in any arms traffic." It added that the allegations, which appeared recently in the Mozambican newspaper *DOMINGO*, were part of a slanderous campaign bent on disturbing the Comoros' good relations with neighboring states.

Early this year, Comoran Foreign Minister Said Kafe denied the *DOMINGO* report, which listed Comoros, South Africa, Malawi, Somalia, Portugal, France, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Oman as countries serving in one way or another in efforts to aid rebels of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement linked to were mentioned. [sentence as received]

Moroni on Allegations

EA251227 Moroni Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 24 Mar 85

[Text] Radio France International has again implicated our country in the forwarding of arms to the MNR, which is fighting against the Mozambique regime. At 1315 this afternoon, Radio France alleged that arms are forwarded to Mozambique through Malawi via the Comoros. This is a grave accusation against our country. These fallacious and baseless accusations against our country are part of the campaign of defamation organized from outside by a certain press that dishonors the French Government and continuously attacks the prestige of our country.

The foreign policy of our country, pursued by His Excellency President Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, maintains good neighborliness with our neighbors, as we all know. The Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros maintains diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level with Maputo, and (Francisco Madeira), ambassador of that country to the Comoros resident in Dar es Salaam, recently paid a working visit to our country during which the Mozambican diplomat was received by many

of the country's authorities. He discussed with them the prospects for reinforcing friendly and cooperative relations between his country and the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros.

Why, then, this campaign of defamation? Why is a certain press after our country? For the simple reason that those who maintain and organize that campaign are unhappy to note that, thanks to a friendly and mutually cooperative policy, and thanks to an intensive international diplomacy under the enlightened leadership of the head of state, His Excellency Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, our country has achieved an unprecedented diplomatic performance in the East as well as in the West.

We should mention that at the African level and in the great international forums, thanks to its policy of peace and friendship, our country has acquired an honored place for itself. That is why our detractors have repeatedly attacked the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros. But this will not cause Comoran diplomacy to deviate from its path. It will continue to make friends, even if some chronic colonialists are unhappy about it.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha on Granting Blacks Political Rights

MB260918 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0906 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Cape Town, March 26, SAPA — The question of political rights for blacks was not whether they should have them, but how it could be done without one population group permanently dominating others, the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, said in Cape Town today. Mr Botha was opening a meeting of the Council for the Coordination of Local Government Affairs, which he said was concrete proof of the Government's intention to bring about evolutionary and peaceful constitutional development.

The government remained committed to establishing constitutional structures which would also afford members of the black communities the opportunity to express themselves politically beyond the local government level. "The question is not whether black communities should be given political rights, but how it should be done without one population group being placed in a position to permanently dominate the other."

Mr Botha said the individual in South Africa could only achieve full political rights within his own group. The protection of group rights did not, as alleged by some, contradict the protection of the rights of the individual. "On the contrary, the individuals rights are dependent on his group's rights being protected."

He said today's meeting of the council was characteristic of the diversity of the country's society. Representatives of the three tiers of government and all the country's population groups were present at the meeting. Black local authorities had been granted official representation on the council and would also be represented on regional service councils. The Urban Councils Association of South Africa (UCASA) would be officially recognised as the official mouthpiece of black local authorities.

Mr Botha praised black local authority councillors who, in spite of severe criticism, antagonism, and harrassment, had proved their devotion and loyalty to their communities and added that they would be able to make a valuable contribution to regional service councils.

Mr Botha said the government planned to introduce the Regional Service Councils Bill after the Easter recess and to establish the first councils in the major centres immediately after the promulgation of the bill. The fact that blacks were given official participation in the coordinating council, local authorities, and in regional service councils was an important component in building acceptable constitutional structures to the satisfaction of moderate and reasonable people.

Botha Asked To Appoint Interim Namibian Government

MB251945 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The state president says it is the government's wish that a democratic, responsible government will be established in South-West Africa which will be in the interests of all groups.

Mr Botha was reacting at the end of a meeting with the Multiparty Conference [MPC] of South-West Africa, in which he was asked to have an interim government appointed in the territory. Mr Botha, as well as Mr Dirk Mudge, the spokesman for the group, said the government's reply to the request will be given within a month.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Andre le Roux] The talks about a possible interim government for South-West Africa led by the MPC took place today in Tuynhuys and lasted for an hour and a half. The MPC was represented by Mr Dirk Mudge of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Mr Moses Katjiuongua of the South-West Africa People's Union, Mr Andreas Shipanga of SWAPO-Democrats, Mr Eben van Zijl of the National Party of South-West Africa, Mr Hans Diergaardt of the Rehoboth Freedom Party, and Mr Peter Booysens of the Labor Party. A comprehensive plan, which took 16 months to formulate, on the independence of South-West Africa was presented at the meeting. I asked Mr Dirk Mudge for his impressions.

[Mudge] I think the talks went off very well. There was a mutual understanding and the state president undertook to reply to our request within one month.

[Le Roux] Did you ask [words indistinct] interim government?

[Mudge] We asked that steps should be taken to establish an interim and transition government for South-West Africa.

[Le Roux] Mr Mudge, you have asked for a decrease in the powers to be given to the administrator general of South-West Africa. Is that so?

[Mudge] The administrator general's role will definitely change. The South African Government will still have to be represented in South-West Africa because the territory cannot become independent unilaterally.

[Le Roux] I also asked the administrator general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, about the possible scaling down of his status in the territory.

[Van Niekerk] When I arrived in South-West Africa, I said that I hoped the term of a one-man government would be as short as possible, because it is not the best method of government. I think the people of the territory should govern themselves.

[Le Roux] A final question in this regard: Would an interim government in South-West Africa [words indistinct]?

[Van Niekerk] Not necessarily, but all these aspects will be taken into consideration. [end recording]

RSA-Mozambique Joint Group Makes 'Good Progress'

MB260453 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Good progress was made at the joint South African-Mozambican Agricultural Technical Committee held at Nelspruit today. The director general of the department of manpower, Dr Piet van der Merwe, says the committee agreed that Mozambican workers who are in South Africa legally or had been in the country legally before will be allowed to renew their contracts at an office at Nelspruit. The Mozambican Government is to obtain particulars about illegal workers in South Africa so that contracts may be entered into with them. Dr van der Merwe said it had also been agreed that new workers would be recruited in Mozambique by means of a recruitment agency in Mozambique.

Le Grange Visits Townships; Unrest Continues

MB261006 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1001 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] Johannesburg, March 26, SAPA — The Minister of Law and Order Mr Louis le Grange visited riot-torn Uitenhage townships this morning, while unrest continued in the area, according to a police spokesman in Port Elizabeth. Mr Le Grange assessed the situation there before returning to Cape Town for what is expected to be a stormy parliamentary debate on the unrest.

Police used tearsmoke early today in four incidents in Kwanobuhle and Langa to disperse groups of between 150 and 400 people. Groups in Kwanobuhle, armed with pangas and sticks, were reportedly hunting for Mr Jimmy Claasen, a businessman who handed over to police people who had attacked his house.

In Langa, where 19 people died last week after the police fired on a crowd of thousands, a policeman's house was set alight and gutted.

A commission on inquiry into the Langa shootings sits at Uitenhage tomorrow. The chairman of the commission, Mr Justice D.D.V. Kannemeyer, will visit the scene of the shooting tomorrow morning and hear police evidence in the afternoon.

In New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, three schools were damaged by fire late last night. Police reported three buses, four private vehicles and give houses set alight in New Brighton yesterday.

Police said they used tearsmoke to disperse more than 500 rioters marching through the streets stoning vehicles, while birdshot was fired at riotous pupils in New Brighton who tried to set fire to school classrooms. In the Orange Free State town of Bothaville, police used tearsmoke on a group who set fire to a beerhall. Four people in a crowd stoning vehicles in Sebokeng in the Vaal Triangle were arrested, the spokesman said. Fort Beaufort police today extinguished a fire at a house set alight by youths.

Police in Pretoria today called on non-residents to avoid random visits to black townships. "The call follows various recent incidents in black residential areas, particularly involving motorists," a spokesman said. He urged non-resident visitors to go to the nearest police station for advice before entering a township. Police escorts could be arranged in certain cases, he added. "Where the police believe that the safety of a visitor could possibly be in doubt, and that the visit is essential, then a police escort will be organised."

Boesak Predicts More Unrest in Township

MB251957 Johannesburg Television Service in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Dr Boesak, an official of the South African Council of Churches and patron of the United Democratic Front, has predicted that there would be more unrest in the future. Dr Boesak, who arrived today in Uitenhage to assess the situation, said although violence cannot solve problems, he can understand why people turn to violence.

[Begin Boesak recording in English] What I can understand, however, is the anger of these people. These people obviously represent the oppressive powers within the township. They have tried with their collaboration with the government to enforce government laws within the township. [end recording]

PFP Members Submit Report On Uitenhage Killings

MB251703 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1621 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] Cape Town, March 25, SAPA — Six members of the Progressive Federal Party [PFP] who visited Uitenhage on Friday last week left the area with "feelings of the gravest disquiet over discrepancies between the official (police) report of the killings" and what they had seen and heard.

The six members, Mrs Helen Suzman, Mr Ray Swart, Dr Alex Boraine, Mr John Malcomess, Mr Andrew Savage, and Mr Errol Moorcroft, compiled a report which has been submitted to the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, and the cabinet ministers concerned. It will also be submitted to the official commission of inquiry, and the members indicated at a press conference this afternoon that they would be prepared to give evidence before the commission.

Mr Malcomess said all they would be able to submit was the evidence they themselves saw at the scene following the incidents and hearsay evidence in the form of affidavits submitted to them. The affidavits purport to give eye-witness accounts of the events leading up to the shooting and the immediate aftermath.

Members of the group visited the scene of the shooting, the hospital to which some of the injured were taken, and they said they had also attempted to obtain details and further information from senior police officers. The police had refused them any information or co-operation. They had also been refused permission to visit the morgue and had been permitted to make a "courtesy" visit only to the hospital where photographs and the taking of statements were forbidden.

According to the report, compiled by Mr Moorcroft on behalf of the group, a number of deductions could be fairly made from the evidence they saw and heard.

Firstly, there was confusion about the funerals. The people involved had evidently first wanted to hold the funerals of three earlier victims of violence in the area but that this had been refused by the local magistrate. Organisers were told the funerals could take place during the week. The date chosen was Thursday, March 21, and permission was granted. On Wednesday, March 20, however, the magistrate evidently changed his mind and banned the funeral.

The people to whom the group spoke all claimed they had not been informed of the change in plan and therefore assembled on Thursday morning in order to be transported to the funeral some 15 kilometres away. The people concerned had apparently been prevented by police from boarding the vehicles and had decided to set off on foot.

The crowd had been peaceful and there was no evidence of sticks, spears, and petrol bombs.

The report said it would be reasonable to assume that the mood of the crowd would have been angry at having been denied transport and at the prospect of a very long and hot journey ahead of them. "The crowd might or might not have been singing, although evidence suggests that it was quiet and orderly."

The official statement by the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, suggeested that a hostile crowd had been marching towards Uitenhage. In fact, the route taken by the crowd was the only reasonable one.

According to evidence obtained, the report said:

— No warning had been given to the crowd to disperse before the shooting started;

— The first single shot to be fired had struck and killed a boy on a bicycle who was closest to one of the Caspirs [armored personnel carriers] involved, followed by a fusillade of shots from both rifles and shotguns;

— It was unanimous that when the shooting took place, there was "at least one Caspir ahead (blocking the road) and one Caspir following behind. Shots were fired from both Caspirs. "In other words, people were caught in a crossfire between the two Caspirs."

— The claim by the police that they had been surrounded by the crowd and had fired in self defence was inconsistent with the evidence at the scene of the shooting;

— It was surprsing that the police should have felt threatened by sticks and stones when they were protected by a heavily armored, sophisticated military vehicle in which they could have retreated at any time.

It went further and said that if the true reason for opening fire was not in self-defence, but in order to disperse a hostile crowd, the question then arose why teargas had not been used, or why rubber bullets and birdshot had not been used before resorting to rifle bullets and heavy shot.

The scene of the shooting indicated that the bodies were lying in one place only and this was inconsistent with the police report because, if as was claimed, the police had been beating off an attack mounted by a crowd surrounding them from all sides, one would have expected evidence to suggest this. The report said evidence was strong that the police had not restricted their firing to a single volley, but had continued firing after people had begun fleeing. "There is further evidence that wounded people were shot while struggling to escape. This may or may not be true."

In summary, the report said "members (of the PFP group) left Uitenhage with feeling of the gravest disquiet over the discrepancies between the official report of the killings and what we ourselves have seen and heard. To say that the police and black residents of Uitenhage are caught up in an ever-increasing spiral of appalling violence is to state the obvious.

"If this spiral is to be broken, then we would suggest that it is imperative that urgent inquiries be instituted on at least three levels: on events surrounding the shooting...on police action in the black townships over the past six months...and the basic underlying causes of the unrest."

The latter would have to include political as well as social and economic grievances and would have to include the entire eastern Cape and South Africa. To restrict the inquiry to the first, which had already been instituted, would be to restrict it to the symptoms and not the causes of unrest.

To avoid the second inquiry would be to avoid finding out why the police appeared to be universally hated, and why their presence in the townships apparently stirred up such hostility. "An inquiry would be to determine why police are generally perceived by blacks as the perpetrators of violence rather than the upholders of peace and justice. It would also give the police an opportunity to defend themselves against the allegations which have been made against them."

It was significant to note that much of the violence which had been committed by blacks had been against black policemen or black community councillors, both of which were regarded as "in league with the oppressors." The role and functioning of the community councils would need to be looked at very carefully, the report said.

"Finally, ...to ascribe the unrest in Uitenhage exclusively to the work of communists or to people who are not interested in peaceful change is not only naive, it is positively dangerous."

At a press conference, where the report was released, Mrs Suzman said the material in the report would be extensively used later this week during the home affairs budget debate in the House of Assembly. A request for a special debate on the issue had been refused, but the speaker had indicated he would allow a "broad discussion" during the budget debate.

Mr Malcomess said the shooting was not an isolated incident and that there had been a long build up to events in the Eastern Cape, in which the PFP had been involved (in calling for government action) since the end of last year.

Mrs Suzman said the "consistent thread of the PFP argument" was the way police handled riots which were in fact not riots but were turned into such by police treatment of the situations.

Mr Swart emphasised that the PFP group's visit to Uitenhage had been "hampered by lack of cooperation from senior police officers, who said they had been told not to divulge any information about the shootings. [no closing quotation mark as received]

Asked to comment on Mr P.W. Botha's defence of Mr Le Grange's handling of the situation, Mrs Suzman said: "I think he may rue the day."

Mr Le Grange had either lost control of his police force or he condoned the matter. He appeared not to have listened to the "other side" before making his statement to parliament. Even if the situation had in fact been as described by police, their actions were indefensible.

Asked about the effect of the shootings on the disinvestment campaign, Dr Alex Boraine said the events were "like manna from heaven for the disinvestors...they will be able to say we told you so, the government only believes in force." He described the current unrest situation in South Africa as "very grim...at least as serious as 1976."

Azapo Leader on Reprisal Killings in Townships

MB252030 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 25 Mar 85

[From "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] All over the weekend there was a spate of what seem to have been retaliatory killings in the townships. At least five people, apparently suspected of being collaborators, including the son of a town councillor, were hacked to death or burned by angry crowds. Well, black organizations such as Azapo [Azanian People's Organization] were quick to condemn the police action last Thursday. On the line to Langa, Julian Marshal asked (Mesuiabili Mashlati), secretary general of Azapo, how he reacted to the revenge murders.

[Begin recording] [(Mashlati)] The only thing to say is that, in fact; a situation where you find people being pushed, it becomes a justified thing.

[Marshal] Is it simply then a question of an eye for an eye, and a tooth for tooth?

[(Mashlati)] Yeah, you see, in fact, the situation where you get people provoked — I mean their anger can not remain dampened, really.

[Marshal] But the killings seem to have been particularly brutal.

[(Mashlati)] People in such a state, they are bound to react in whatever way. It might be brutal, just like the killing of the people itself is a brutal act, you see.

[Marshal] But would Azapo make any attempt to stop this revenge killings?

[(Mashlati)] Yeah.

[Marshal] Under what circumstances?

[(Mashlati)] I mean, if the people are not provoked.

[Marshal] So, are you suggesting perhaps that if the police and the Army were to remove themselves from the townships, then these killings might stop?

[(Mashlati)] I mean the mere fact that you have part of the Army in the township and the police patrolling and all that, that is very provocative. [end recording]

Black Leaders Must Break 'Negotiation Deadlock'

MB260720 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Station commentary: "The Negotiation Deadlock"]

[Text] Reactions on the political significance of events in the eastern Cape reflect a remarkable consistency in their view that there is insufficient negotiation going on among South Africa's political leaders. It is an accurate assessment and cause for concern. There is general agreement that enduring political solutions for this country will have to be the product of negotiation, not imposed formulas devised by any one group for the rest. At the same time, however, many of the reactions manifest an equally curious confusion about the reasons why there is at present apparent deadlock in instituting negotiations between white and black leaders.

In a weekend interview, Dr Chester Crocker warned that there had to be constructive change in South Africa or there would be chaos, and constructive change, he said, depended on the government negotiating with blacks. It may be noted, to quote Dr Brand Fourie's words in the same program, that there was more change in South Africa in the past 5 years than in the previous 50. Dr Crocker himself has often acknowledged that real changes are in progress in the country. That fact does not of course invalidate his premises on change and negotiation, but it does refute the implied accusation that the South African Government has been unwilling to enter into such negotiations. Removing the deadlock requires that its cause should be clearly identified.

As far as government policy and action are concerned, the accusers should reconsider the relevant facts. First, in its commitment to political reform, the government has explicitly accepted that blacks are entitled to participate in political decisionmaking at the highest levels. Second, it has stated categorically that the system of elected black local authorities, with all the powers of their white counterparts, is therefore not an end but the start of a process leading to the first objective. Third, a cabinet committee has been engaged for 2 years in seeking structures through which that objective, participation in political decisionmaking at the highest levels, can be achieved. Fourth, the government has stated, as a fundamental point of departure, that those structures must be worked out through negotiation among all affected parties, which automatically includes all black leaders and interest groups. Finally, to facilitate the process, an independent constitutional forum has been proposed, providing a mechanism for all to state their proposals and argue their differences without accepting any preconditions for their participation.

That there is both a desire to negotiate and a determination to facilitate the process is clear. Why then the deadlock? It lies in the refusal so far by the vast majority of black leaders to take part in the constitutional forum. They are not opposed to its aims, and most have repeatedly called for negotiations. They are, however, the prisoners of the present intense competition among black political groups for the support of the masses. The situation of vicious infighting to which that has given rise favors the radical demagogue and exposes the moderate to the danger of being branded a sellout. Thus, even the most moderate black leaders are wary of negotiating. The dynamics of present day black politics are inherently confrontationist, but it is only they, those black leaders, who can break the stranglehold. It will require courage, but it is they who will have to take the initiative if the political negotiations or support are to get properly underway.

Division in Extra-Parliamentary Opposition Viewed

MB251530 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 24 Mar 85 p 27

[Article by Ivor Wilkins: "This Ironic Scrap About What Should be the True Liberal Posture"]

[Text] In a land where virtually no event escapes a heavy soaking of irony, the current feverish disarray in extra-Parliamentary opposition circles probably should come as no surprise.

Just when the Government has lost the ideological assurance it always enjoyed under the dogmatic protection of classic apartheid, opposition forces are locked in conflict with each other.

Just when their opportunities have rarely been better to leap in and influence the course of events, they are largely immobilised by their own internecine squabbles.

One manifestation of this divide was graphically demonstrated in the recent visit by Senator Edward Kennedy.

Invited by the United Democratic Front [UDF], a loose grouping whose leaders are easier to identify than its followers, he was staggered to be dogged at every turn by rival Azapo [Azanian People's Organization] adherents demanding he go home.

Of course, South African politics has been no freer of schisms than politics anywhere and to a degree the UDF-Azapo divide is a continuation of the old ANC-PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] split.

Similarly, opposition from the left in general has included many streams — from hardline communism to soft liberalism — that from time to time have formed alliances, but just as often have gone head to head.

Right now, they are butting heads in a fierce internal debate. Measured against the position in which the Government finds itself, that conflict is not only ironic because of its timing. It is also ironic because it is largely the product of the very opportunities created by the Government's incoherence.

In the dark Vorsterian era of the '60s and '70s when the security police were unleashed in dark menace, opposition forces found cohesion — united under common oppression from a common implacable foe.

But, as the monolith of Afrikaner Nationalism collapsed, so was the monolith of dissident opposition re-revealed as artificial. It split into factions and disarray.

The break-up surrounds an argument with many strands and nuances. But central to it are two strategic questions — violence versus non-violence, and pragmatic participation versus boycott.

Symptomatic of the struggle at large has been a remarkbale debate in the Black Sash.

Last August, Jill Wentzel, editor of its magazine, *SASH*, wrote a piece urging human rights organisaitons to be unequivocal in their condemnation of all violence. She warned against a tendency to condone violence from the left and only condemn it from the right. Her views were widely interpreted as an attack on the UDF and sparked an uproar within the Black Sash.

An editorial in the November issue of *SASH* argued for tolerance of other points of view and pleaded for an end to threats like "collaborators have only themselves to blame for violent attacks upon them".

In the same issue Black Sash vice-president Joyce Harris lamented the fact that internal animosities were "tearing (the opposition) to shreds".

Boycotting any structures created by the "system" had been elevated into a principle rather than a strategy, so that the participation-non-participation argument "has spiralled to such an extent that it has almost taken the place of the real object of oppostion — the Establishment", she said.

The current issue of *SASH* continues the argument, which national president Sheena Duncan — reasserting the organisation's commitment to non-violence — characterises as a debate about whether or not there is such a thing as just war and just revolution.

Later she says she believes there are times when to enter into negotiation is just another trap to immobilise the opposition.

Evidence of a similar debate going on in other extra-parliamentary opposition circles emerged in a recent edition of *WORK IN PROGRESS*, a sort of trade journal for various resistance groups.

An editorial said many of the old formulas were losing validity in the changing circumstances of South Africa and, accordingly, opposition responses should be modified. Some political observers believe the editorial is likely to prompt repercussions from the hard left.

The current arguments have been run through South Africa's modern development in various forms before.

They remind historians of the debate over participation in the old Native Representative Council, the fight between the Liberal Party and the Congress of Democrats and again when the Africa Resistance Movement emerged from the Liberal Party and many other examples.

In recent years, liberalism has become as unfashionable as crimplene in dissident circles — condemned for failing to deliver, under strong attack from the black consciousness movement, and losing ground as whites on the campuses turn increasingly to Marxism.

Given the cliche that liberalisam is essentially wishy-washy, what is happening now is a contradiction in terms — a resurgence of hardline liberalism.

Liberals are reasserting their own values and refusing to be bullied by what some describe as the "moral mafia" of the hard left.

They are saying No to what Jill Wentzel describes in the current *SASH* edition as the danger of a new dictatorship that could set the stage for a fiercer and more destructive fascism than the one currently being opposed.

She is talking of an authoritarianism of the extreme left that suppresses internal debate, gives any action against the regime the sanction of high morality and freezes the scope for argument by adopting all-or-nothing stances. In its terms, the system is evil and any contact with it is immoral.

It is what University of Cape Town political scientist David Welsh describes as "morally pure powerlessness" — a retreat into sterile rhetoric.

The director of the Institute of Race Relations, John Kane-Berman, also scoffs at this approach and believes apartheid ultimately will be ended by strategy not morality. "Unfortunately," he says, "opposition politics has largely become a question of moral one-upmanship. People are adopting the same attitude to the governemnt as President Reagan did when he called the Soviet Union an evil empire.

"Reagan is now talking to the evil empire in Geneva because he has realised the balance of power and world peace depend on some working relationship with it.

"The militant left here, by refusing to engage in any way with the Government, are precluding the possibility of exploiting what is a new political situation in South Africa.

"By this new situation, I mean the confusion arising from the fact that the government is abandoning apartheid, but still has no clue what to replace it with. This provides an opening for others to exploit and inject some realistic political alternatives into the agenda."

Because of their pragmatism, people like Welsh, Kane-Berman, the liberal patriarch Alan Paton, and many others have become "anathematised", to use the ghastly jargon of the intellectual left.

If one is looking for ironies, there is another one: the all-or-nothing boycott approach of the moralists accords neither with Marx nor with Lenin, nor in the local context with Mandela — who condoned selective participation if leverage could be thus gained.

Of course there are many shades and contours to the debate, but herein lies a clue to part of the current ferment in these circles.

Some of it, at least, is illinformed radical chic captivated by the romance of revolutionary jargon, catchy slogans, and the easy glamour of hardline positions.

Without having thought through the implications in terms of lives and blood, they might condone leftwing violence intellectually, without intending ever to become part of it.

Its assumption seems to be that simply being leftwing is enough to change society without actually soiling one's hands in the toil of achieving change.

But, beneath that, there is a shadowy, difficult-to-define hard-core working to a different agenda that wants oppression, boycott, economic collapse and violence in the belief that in this way the revolution will take place.

For many years, traditional liberals have, often without identifying them as such, kept company with such elements out of a shared abhorrence for apartheid and a shared desire for a different South Africa.

Recent events, however, are crystallising the fundamental differences between them.

When people like Lucy Mvubelo and Sam Buti are calculatedly targeted for firebombings, when people have their ears sliced for going to work during stayaways, and "collaborators" are marked for murder, liberals find themselves unable to accept such acts airily as the inevitable response to structural violence in the system.

They find themselves differing over the means of achieving a changed South Africa and they find themselves wondering whether the kind of society likely to emerge from violent revolution is the kind of society they want.

And, increasingly, they are prepared to declare those differences and define themselves in terms of their own values and principles — rather than be swept up in an agenda that denies everything they stand for.

SWAZILAND

Foreign Minister Leaves for Visit to UK

MB251658 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, left the country today for the United Kingdom at the invitation of the British Government. During his 2 week stay in Great Britain, Mr Mnisi will have talks with his counterpart, Sir Geoffrey Howe, and other British government ministers. The foreign minister was accompanied by the principal secretary in the ministry of foreign affairs, Mr Z.L. Mkhonta. The minister was seen off at Matsapa airport by the British high commissioner to Swaziland, Mr Martin Reith.

SWAZI OBSERVER Criticizes Clergy Stand on Politics

MB221315 Mbabane THE SWAZI OBSERVER in English 22 Mar 85 pp 1, 3

[Editorial: "Hands Off Politics Please"]

[Text] "We are not a political organisation," declared an official of a religious organisation, the Council of Swaziland Churches, in an article published by *THE SWAZI OBSERVER* on March 20.

The article pointed out clearly the functions of the Council of Swaziland Churches (CSC) which relate to the objectives of the government of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Churches or Christianity for that matter did not come to this country to further political activities but to spread the word of God and gain more souls for God.

The latter is what the CSC is doing. This organisation is trying to assist people to be self-sufficient in one way or the other. It is trying to encourage agricultural development on a bigger scale and has embarked on maize and bean growing projects. It has also embarked on community garden projects.

The Council of Swaziland Churches also helps in times of disasters. It sponsors orphans and gives help to refugees in various ways.

In fact these are some of the objectives of all church organisations all over the world.

It is therefore surprising and appaling that last Sunday the Anglican Bishop of Swaziland and the Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of the Manzini Roman Catholic Church delivered a joint letter to their congregations which in part speaks ill of the Swaziland Government. It is not known whether the duo was aware when delivering the message to their congregation that they were divulging it to the nation.

We wonder if they were aware that they were delivering from the aims of the church [as published] and involving themselves as well as their congregation in politics which should be left in the hands of the leaders of this nation.

We believe that they are God's shepherds on a mission to look after His congregation and gain more souls for Him. Politics has nothing to do with the Kingdom of Heaven just in the same way the church has nothing to do with earthly politics.

We trust that as men of God they would work towards promoting the existing peace and stability in the Kingdom. It came as a shock to hear the two men of God make statements which obviously contradict what the honourable leaders of this Kingdom are doing to keep peace and stability.

They talked about the "violence of preferential treatment for some people and the violence of detention without trial". We would like to pose this question to these two gentlemen: Who are those in detention and why are they there?

Perhaps they deserve it. In the recent Tinkhundla [electoral college constituency] meeting in Manzini, the Prime Minister Prince Bhekimpi told the nation that those who are grumbling and mumbling should come out and express their grievances. Did this duo get the green light from the Prime Minister or from the Queen Regent to preach this kind of gospel in this Kingdom? If the answer is "No" this leaves much to be desired.

The letter of the duo went on to say: "In spite of the explanation that has been given from time to time, the rapidity of changes made the shifts of power in governing the country without the

participation or involvement of the nation has given rise to feelings of perplexity, and uncertainty as to the future of what society holds for the coming generation."

What did these gentlemen mean by "without the participation or involvement of the majority of the nation?" We are all aware that the present government is the government of the people by the people because we all voted for the people who are running the country today.

The majority voted and therefore this government is a majority government. In last Saturday's Tinkhundla meeting the Prime Minister stressed that who ever wants to say something about the government should say it in an appropriate Tinkhundla. There is no place for politics in church.

The two churchmen went on to say: "There is a small section of our society which can afford to increase its purchases of luxuries imported into Swaziland from the industrial world while the majority experience increasing unemployment."

However, these reverend gentlemen forget that all the five fingers in a man's hand are not equal in length. This theory applies to all human being all over the world. Swaziland is a monarchy and such state of affairs should be left to the elders of the nation to deal with, and church or religious affairs should be left in the hands of religious leaders.

Time is not yet ripe for us to have Swazi Desmond Tutu's here. What we should do is to pray for the Queen, the Crown Prince, Liqoqo, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and to pray for prosperity of the nation at large.

ZIMBABWE

Mangwende on Killings in RSA, Ties With Pakistan

MB251720 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The government today condemned the unprovoked murder of innocent civilians in Uitenhage, in apartheid-ruled South Africa, last week. The minister for foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, said the massacre demonstrated that the Pretoria regime has not changed. He was speaking in Harare today at a reception to mark the 39th anniversary of the national day of Pakistan. Comrade Mangwende pointed out that there has been no progress in the Namibian independence process in the past 5 years. He said the Namibian issue had been deliberately obscured by the irrelevant and unrelated issue of the presence of Cuban troops in the Peoples' Republic of Angola.

Commenting on relations between Zimbabwe and Pakistan, Comrade Mangwende said more areas of cooperation between the two countries could be identified through close cooperation and discussion.

Speaking on the same occasion, the Pakistan ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Anwar Khan, said his country is convinced that Namibia and Azania shall be free. He observed that the Pakistani Foreign Ministry is strongly in the forefront for the establishment of democracy, solidarity, and peace in South Africa. The (?ambassador) pledged his full support for the liberation struggle in South Africa. He said acts of terrorism and murder against innocent victims will all aid the struggle for freedom [word indistinct].

Mangwende Urges USSR, U.S. To Open Arms Talks

MB260728 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 26 Mar 85

[Text] The government has urged the Soviet Union and the United States to genuinely strive for progress in the disarmament talks. Zimbabwe wants the secret forum at which arms reduction talks are held to be democratized and brought out in the open like at the United Nations.

Speaking at a reception to mark the Greek national day in Harare last night, the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende, said Moscow and Washington must negotiate seriously to ensure the preservation of global peace and stability. Comrade Mangwende called for a new world economic order to curb hunger, poverty, and disease.

In reply, the Greek ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Dhimitrios Koriakos, noted that political and economic relations between the two countries is growing speedily.

Official Condemns Political, Tribal Divisions

MB250845 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 25 Mar 85

[Text] The deputy minister of defense responsible for paramilitary training, Comrade William Ndangana, has condemned people who support political parties on tribal lines.

Addressing an election campaign meeting at (Manzire) business center in Chipinga yesterday, Comrade Ndangana reminded Zimbabweans that they are one family and should work together to develop the country. He called on peace-loving Zimbabweans to work closely with the police to flush out political malcontents bent on destabilzing the country and undermining its hard-won independence.

Comrade Ndangana criticized minority parties which have resorted to violence in an attempt to win support, saying the use of force will not make them win the forthcoming general election.